

Hafa Adai!

Mobil sues Saipan Stevedore for 'flying' shipping containers. **PAGE 3**
Yamaha certifies two Joeten Motors technicians. **PAGE 9**

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75¢

AG takes over CUC engine procurement

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» **Palacios extends state of emergency**

Acting governor Arnold T. Palacios extended once more the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and delegated the authority to procure a power engine to Attorney General Edward Manibusan. **See AG on Page 4**

DPL ready to award homestead lots on Pagan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has completed its mapping work for the agricultural homestead program on Pagan and is now ready to award

homestead lots to the island's residents who want to go back there and cultivate their lots.

According to DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo, a recent three-week trip to map the Pagan agricultural

See DPL on Page 4

Rookie cop arrested for DUI

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A rookie police officer was arrested over the weekend after he allegedly crashed his sports car while intoxicated, while a drunk police cadet was also apprehended on Sunday midnight for allegedly eating chips and

» **Drunk police cadet apprehended for not paying food at gas station**

other food without paying for them at a gas station and challenging the station's employee to a fight.

Multiple sources disclosed that Dixon Kwon, a rookie police officer assigned with the Department of Public Safety as a DUI officer, was arrested for driving under the influ-

See ROOKIE on Page 4

House numbering system in the works

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

First, Saipan's streets got named. Next up will be house numbers.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is now working on a house numbering system for the island, according to special assistant Henry Hofschneider.

That means assigning a number to every house and building on Saipan

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LIBERATION DAY PARADE

A color guard from the Third Marine Division, based in Okinawa, Japan, marches during Guam's annual Liberation Day Parade in Hagatna, Guam, last Friday, July 21. The 2017 Guam Liberation Parade celebrates the 73rd anniversary of the liberation of Guam from Japanese occupation by U.S. forces during World War II.

U.S. NAVY/MCS3 DANIEL WILLOUGHBY



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Local

CHCC: Building resilience against climate change



Division of Fish and Wildlife's Jill Lisk Clarke talks about possible resources that can be leveraged to combat climate change.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To build resilience against climate change, or BRACE, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is collaborating with stakeholders to engage with the community on prevention and emergency preparedness for climate-related health threats.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said that BRACE will enhance the strategies and policy priorities for state and lo-

cal public health and related partnerships.

"By building capacity with the Office of the Governor Climate Change Initiative, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Bureau of Environmental Health, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Public Health Programs, the Insular Area Health Agencies will assist in reducing climate-related morbidity and mortality. It will help our

community fully identify and assess climate-related health threats and will increase communication and information sharing among insular areas, the federal government, and other state/local governments and partnerships," she said.

Muña noted that combating the effects of climate change has become a growing concern within both the local and global community, with the Commonwealth and other

Pacific Islands most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate changes and isolation.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres added that environmental changes affect the CNMI's unique environmental resources and infrastructure, which includes critical centers such as the island's hospital.

"Proactive efforts to protect our environment and resources is key to ensuring that we can adapt to current and future changes, and prepare solutions to possible threats. With the establishment of the CNMI resilience working group and CHCC's initiative to combat the effects of climate change, we can collectively prepare with available resources and the key stakeholders to really make progress," Torres said.

CNMI Climate Change coordinator Richard Salas noted the deeply intertwined relationship between a changing climate and human health.

"Increased intensity of existing health risks is highly likely and new public health challenges could arise through other pathways. The CNMI lies in a tropical zone, which may experience increasingly favorable ambient conditions for mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, as well as several food- and water-borne diseases. Contributing factors to the spread of these disorders, such as poor waste management practices, inadequate infrastructure, and uninformed public health practices, should be controlled and corrected as soon as possible to minimize the risk of transmission," he said.

Territorial epidemiologist Dr. Paul White added that health encompasses environmental, animal, and human health, adding that a "one-health approach" must be considered.

"There is much debate as to the cause of climate change, but change is occurring and all these factors connect with one another," he said.

In building capacity, it was shared that the effects of climate change can also affect people's mental health.

Salas said that when it comes to adaptation planning and public health, it is important to prioritize the most vulnerable populations in the CNMI.

"Communities across the CNMI may be subjected to similar environmental changes and conditions, but the lasting effects will vary depending on a number of socio-economic factors. This was evident after



Territorial epidemiologist Dr. Paul White discusses a one-health approach to climate change in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Warren Villagomez discusses key health issues in regards to climate change and emergency preparedness.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Stakeholders from various government agencies and private corporations join CHCC's workshop to build resilience against climate effects. Janice McMichael of the Starfish Alliance discusses the BRACE model and vulnerable populations.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Typhoon Soudelor, as recovery efforts in certain villages took much longer than in others and some losses have yet to be reconciled. This layer of complexity must be considered in adaptation planning for the CNMI," he said.

According to Muña, improving community resilience in terms of healthcare is an intensive planning process.

"Adaptive management practices, stewardship, and

community education and involvement is needed to address our healthcare needs and the health of our community. This would require collaboration across multi-sectors of government and members of the community, therefore it is a community based-approach coupled with effective management and policy that can lead to successful adaptation planning for the CNMI." (PR)

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Mobil sues Saipan Stevedore for 'flying' shipping containers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Mobil Oil Mariana Island Inc. is suing Saipan Stevedore Company Inc. for allegedly

failing to pay for the destruction it caused to the Mobil terminal at the Port of Saipan when its shipping containers were blown by Typhoon Soudelor into the terminal's

fence in August 2015.

Mobil Oil, through Richard L. Johnson, asked the Superior Court to hold Saipan Stevedore liable to pay for damages. *Saipan Tribune* contacted

Saipan Stevedore yesterday for comments but a staff said the general manager is off-island, while the assistant manager was already off. Mobil Oil operates a bulk

fuel terminal at the Port of Saipan. Saipan Stevedore operates a container yard at the same port. The two are adjacent to one another.

On the evening of Aug. 2, 2015, Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan and several shipping containers were blown by the winds and slammed into the Mobil terminal's fence.

According to Johnson in the lawsuit, the containers damaged the fence, various pipelines, and other equipment, including an aboveground tank that had unleaded gasoline.

Johnson said the shipping container that struck the storage tank caused the tank to rupture and to spill a por-

tion of its contents.

The lawyer argued that Saipan Stevedore failed to take reasonable measures to secure the containers in its yard in preparation for the typhoon.

Johnson said Saipan Stevedore should have known that typhoon force winds can propel empty shipping containers into structures and equipment.

Johnson said Saipan Stevedore failed to prepare a plan to reduce the risks posed by the containers.

"Demands to pay for damage caused by SaiSteve's negligence have not succeeded in obtaining payment for Mobil's damages," the lawyer said.

Man allegedly kissed minor

A 47-year-old man was arrested last week for allegedly kissing a 14-year-old girl on the lips inside his car shortly after a New Year's party on Saipan.

Angel Bacani Morales, a boat captain by profession, was arrested after police received information last July 17 that he is back from the Philippines.

Morales, however, told police that it was the girl who held his hand, hugged him, kissed his lips, and greeted him "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

Morales was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Thursday for a bail hearing on charges of child abuse and dis-

turbing the peace.

Camacho allowed him to be released to a third party custodian after posting a \$2,500 cash bail and \$22,500 in unsecured bond, plus other some conditions.

Preliminary hearing will to-day, Tuesday, at 9am.

Police said that Morales brought the girl to her house after a New Year's party in the evening of Jan. 1, 2017. When the girl was about to get out of the car, Morales allegedly grabbed her upper body and hugged her. She then pushed him. As she tried to get out of the car, he allegedly held her hand and tried to kiss her, but she squirmed to get away from him.

Interior provides \$409,885 to Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula made available \$409,885 to preserve natural and cultural resources and protect against invasive species in Guam.

"We are especially pleased that Congress was able to provide some extra funding in [fiscal year] 2017 to mitigate and control the coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant in Guam," said Pula. "All funding supports Gov. Eddie Calvo's efforts in protecting Guam's natural resources now and for the future."

Guam's Department of Agriculture will receive \$74,516 to start up a training and outreach program for the prevention, control and management of the little fire ant, *Wasmannia auropunctata*, infestation in Guam.

Funds will provide for equipment and supplies, personnel training, a new website dedicated to LFA control, and workshops to encourage and engage the public in the control and management of this pest.

An LFA infestation was first found at a green-waste site on the northern tip of Guam in 2011, and there are now over 20 widely dispersed infestation sites on the island. Other infestations of the LFA have been found in Hawaii and other islands of Polynesia further south, including Australia.

The LFA has caused ecological disruption in Guam's forests and other areas in Guam. It is feared that if unchecked, the LFA will cause further disruptions to Guam's ecosystem and spread to other islands in the Micronesia region.

The University of Guam College of Natural and Ap-

plied Sciences will receive \$63,816 to purchase supplies and equipment necessary to eradicate the little fire ant from selected forest sites in Guam. Entomologists will also train technical workers to recognize and control LFA infestations.

The University of Guam will also receive \$176,553 to fund a post-doctoral entomologist for two years and supplement existing work to administer the biological control agent of choice against the coconut rhinoceros beetle. This has typically reduced damage by up to 90 percent with population suppression lasting indefinitely.

The beetle has been killing coconut trees in Guam and Palau. Ideal beetle breeding sites are in decaying vegetation, often left in the wake of tropical storms and typhoons. Without significant suppression, it is believed both Guam and Palau will lose most of their coconut trees and that it will only be a matter of time before other islands in Micronesia are invaded.

These three initiatives support efforts to control the coconut rhinoceros beetle and the little fire ant and align with the 2015 biosecurity plan for Hawaii and Micronesia.

These two invasive species pose significant challenges to regional ecosystems and present both health and economic risks to communities in the Pacific. These specific initiatives were able to be funded because a one-time appropriation add-on of \$250,000 made available by the U.S. Congress in the FY 2017 budget toward these eradication efforts and

See **INTERIOR** on Next Page



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UFO raises over \$3K for families of 3 workers

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The families of the ongoing “Tulong Kapwa” donation drive for the three Filipino workers who were killed while working on a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sewer lift station in San Antonio, Saipan, have already received over \$1,300 each.

The United Filipino Organization, which spearheaded the fundraising drive, have managed to raise over \$3,900, which they divided into three and sent to the families of

Danilo Paglinawan, Ricky Quijano, and Amid Tapon.

The organization was able to send \$1,315.30 to each of these workers’ families.

According to a statement from UFO press relations officer Lito Marquez, the families of the three victims have already received the amounts sent them.

UFO president Marlon Regaton expressed his gratitude for the support shown by the public for their compatriots.

The donation drive will end on July 31. The organization will schedule another count-

ing session to consolidate all the collections for remittance

to the families.

All groups and individuals

Drug court receives over \$99K

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios signed Saipan Local Law 20-07 yesterday, appropriating over \$99,000 for the CNMI Drug Court.

Authored by Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) and sponsored by Reps. Francisco

C. Aguon (R-Saipan) and Blas Jonathan “BJ” Attao (Ind-Saipan), House Local Bill 20-25 was signed into law yesterday.

SLL 20-07 appropriates \$99,788 to the CNMI Drug Court; it does not allow the funds to be reprogrammed.

The sum came from Public Law 18-30, or the Tourism Entertainment and Destination Enhancement Act of 2013, which taxed poker establish-

ments per machine and imposed the poker licensing fee, in which a portion goes to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program.

The family members who received the money are be-

yond grateful for the help offered by the organization and for all the help that was given them by the residents of Saipan.

ments per machine and imposed the poker licensing fee, in which a portion goes to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program.

The drug court within the CNMI Superior Court boasts of a “collaborative non-adversarial system to effect the rehabilitation and recovery of drug offenders through contin-

uous court monitoring, regular drug testing, and holistic drug dependency treatment.”

Seen as a unique type of criminal justice, the court focuses on long-term rehabilitation rather than punishment.

The CNMI Superior Court’s Drug Court is set to graduate seven of 12 participants later this year.



Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios signs House Local Bill 20-25, D1, which appropriates \$99,788 to the CNMI Drug Court. The bill becomes Saipan Local Law 20-07. From left: Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Rep. Joseph “Lee Pan” T. Guerrero, Rep. Ivan A. Blanco, Rep. Angel A. Demapan, Palacios, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Rep. Alice S. Igitol, House vice speaker Rep. Janet U. Maratita, and Rep. Frank C. Aguon.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DPL

From Page 1

homestead program came up with desirable results and that the agency is now ready to hold a raffle drawing for the program on Pagan.

It’s just that Teregeyo wants to meet first with Northern Islands Mayor Vicente Santos prior to giving out lots to families that originated from Pagan.

“I am holding off until I discuss with [Santos] to coordinate everything,” said Teregeyo, adding that this coordination is paramount prior to issuing agricultural homestead

lots to families.

“We need to plan and make sure the issuance of lots are timely for the people [of Pagan] and that there is some sort of reliable transportation for their food supplies,” said Teregeyo, adding that vessels containing food supplies are currently being contracted by DPL.

“We are excited to move forward [with this],” she said.

Teregeyo has already informed legislators of this development, but has opted to wait for her actual discussion with Santos regarding the lots, which is scheduled this week.

According to Teregeyo, priority would be given to residents of Pagan or descendants

of residents of Pagan. According to her sources, there are about 11 registered voters who are originally from Pagan.

In order for those coming from Pagan to be eligible for an agricultural homestead lot there, they must not own an agricultural homestead lot elsewhere in the CNMI.

However, those originating from Pagan “are eligible to have a village homestead and an agricultural homestead.”

Along with the payment of fees, an established residency in the CNMI, and being of Northern Marianas descent, people who originated from Pagan or have relatives that originated from Pagan are eli-

gible to apply for an agricultural homestead on the island.

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres supports relocating people to Pagan, even against the U.S. military’s interest to use the island as a live-fire training facility.

In a statement by the Torres administration, it clarified that it does not support anything that “would do significant damage to a unique island environment.”

The administration added that it does not “... support anything that would prevent the people of Pagan from returning to their ancestral homeland through the agricultural homestead program.”

AG

From Page 1

Palacios cited the lack of a functioning board of directors as well as a technical worker crisis as the main reasons for Friday’s emergency declaration.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is in Hawaii to meet with officials from the office of economic adjustment under the U.S. Department of Defense. According to the administration, Torres is expected on island by the end of the month.

According to documents

obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, Palacios signed executive order 2017-07, declaring a state of emergency at CUC and designating Manibusan as the “legal authority to effectuate the procurement of the replacement generator for Engine No. 8” at

Palacios also gave CUC executive director Gary Camacho the executive power of the board of directors to lead CUC in the absence of a fully functional board.

Camacho would lead CUC “under the supervision of the governor” and shall manage the corporation “in a business-

like manner until a new board of directors is constituted.”

As of this publication, only one member of the CUC board has been approved by the Senate: Weston Thomas Deleon Guerrero, whose appointment was approved last July 11, 2017.

Palacios also directed that restrictions on government employment be lifted, giving CUC full power and authority to “retain staff which may include employees other than citizens and permanent residents of the United States.”

The state of emergency

would last 30 days from July 21, 2017, or the date to which the EO was signed. Unless terminated by Palacios or Torres prior to the end of the 30-day period, the executive order would be in effect.

This is the third straight emergency declaration for CUC. Torres first declared a state of emergency last May 22, 2017, five days after the CUC board of directors submitted their resignations in the wake of the Engine 8 procurement fiasco that indicated the possibility of a conflict of interest.

ROOKIE

From Page 1

ence and other offenses. He was subsequently released; police are doing further investigation.

Aghilimal R. Faisao, 21, a police cadet, was arrested for theft, theft of service, assault, and disturbing the peace.

DPS has yet to release information about Kwon’s arrest as of yesterday.

Sources said that Kwon, who was allegedly intoxicated, was driving his sports car in the northern part of Saipan either Friday night or Saturday night. The car ran off the road and slammed into a tree. Kwon’s female passenger was injured.

Sources said that Kwon left

the scene but was arrested at the Coral Ocean Point area that same night. His car had extensive damage.

At yesterday’s bail hearing in Faisao’s case, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$5,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Aug. 1 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Faisao. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

A police officer was sent to the Mobil gas station in Chalan Kiya on Sunday at 12:53am after police received a complaint about a disturbing the peace incident.

The officer arrived at 12:56am and met with a fe-

male cashier and a male pump attendant.

The officer learned that a drunk man, later identified as Faisao, went inside the gas station’s store and ordered some chips and took a pack of granola bar.

The cashier told Faisao to pay, but he stated he was going to eat them. He proceeded to the table, where he starting eating the chips. He made a mess on the table and floor with the food.

After eating the chips and drinking, Faisao washed his hands using the soda dispenser. The pump attendant told Faisao to wash his hands in the restroom and not at the drink dispenser.

Faisao passed by the pump attendant, allegedly whispered a profanity in his ear,

and walked into the restroom. After Faisao came out, the pump attendant told him to pay for the items that he had consumed. Faisao challenged the attendant to a fight outside the store.

Faisao went back inside the gas station, pointed at the cashier in the counter, and asked her why she was calling the police.

Even when the police arrived, Faisao allegedly refused to pay.

The cashier said she was scared, thinking he would beat her up.

The store’s surveillance camera captured the incident, police said.

It is not clear whether Faisao will be among those police cadets who will graduate this Friday, considering his arrest.

HOUSE

From Page 1

for the convenience of the U.S. Postal Service and the island community.

Hofschneider said the building numbering system in the United States inspired the idea.

The street naming directory was first established in 2012. It was responsible for creating and assigning names for every street on the island of Saipan. The project involved the heads of the Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Works, the mayor’s office, and more.

Before the directory was established, the entire island of Saipan had no street names, said Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

The lack of street names was a struggle for the island because specific names or descriptions could not be given to others. For example, paramedics struggled to find the exact location of a person in trouble because an exact location could not be given.

Over five years ago, the directory proposed naming every street on island and to set a specific theme for different vil-

lages on Saipan. For example, the streets and lanes in the San Antonio village are named after different kinds of fish. Apatang said this was because the village is near the ocean.

The consultant at the time, Henry K. Pangelinan, proposed all the street names and village themes.

The Saipan Mayor’s Office aims to help the community further by specifying where residents are located by setting numbers for every building on Saipan.

According to Hofschneider, the development of this numbering system not only enables people to conveniently find homes; it could possibly save lives, serve as a guide for when a census is conducted, and for the opportunity to establish door-to-door mail delivery on Saipan.

Hofschneider feels that once the street numbering system is in place, paramedics, firefighter, and the local police will be able to locate a certain building right away, which could potentially save lives.

He said this will also be helpful so that the postal service on island can start delivering packages and mail via doorstep delivery.

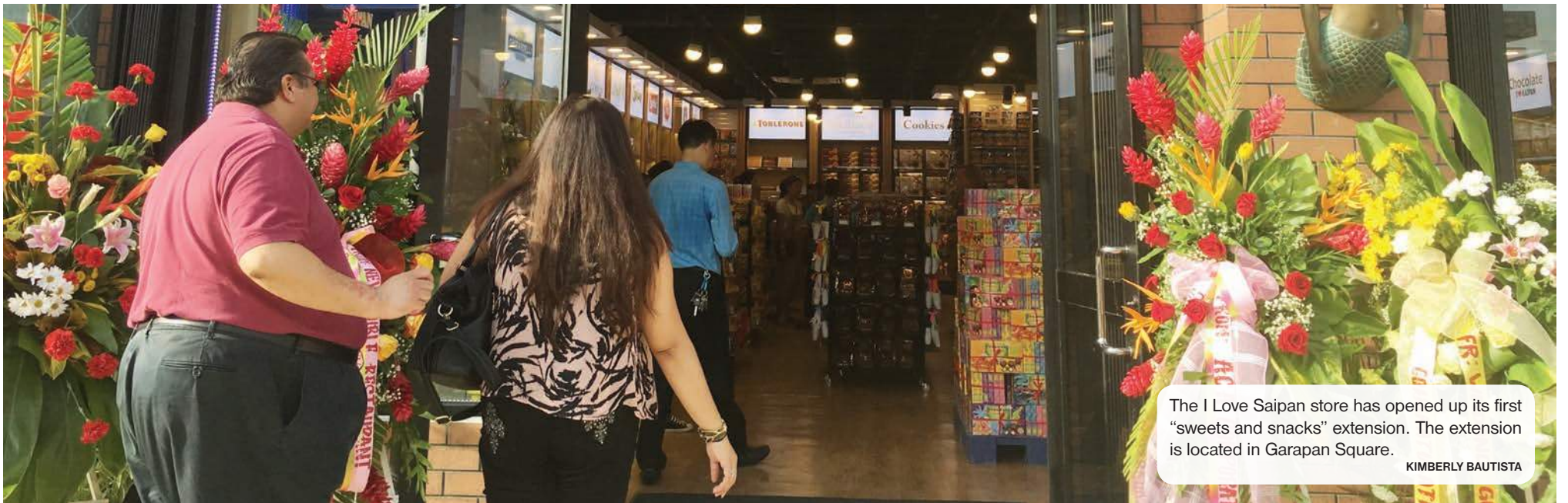
INTERIOR

From Page 3

to augment capacity building within the insular areas in the management of natural and cultural resources. At the 22nd Micronesian Islands Forum in May 2017, island leaders, including Guam Gov. Ed-

die Calvo, identified invasive species and specifically the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, as one of the most important threats to island communities, economics, environments and human health.

Guam’s Bureau of Statistics and Plans will receive \$95,000 for a variety of projects. (DOI)



I Love Saipan snack shop now open

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The "I Love Saipan" chain of stores opened its first sweets and snacks shop last Friday at the Garapan Square in a bid to not only quench hunger pangs but also to introduce a variety of chocolate products.

Many gathered to witness the grand opening. Free samples of chips and chocolates were distributed and live entertainment regaled guests.

According to Katheyryne Tuquero and Robyn Lee, who came out to witness the grand opening and they were excited about the store and the products that the shop offers. In their opinion, the products are unique and affordable.

This was the first snacks and sweets shop set up by AC Pacific LLC, the parent company of the I Love Saipan chain.

According to AC Pacific LLC president Alex Youn, the

snacks and sweets shop is significantly different from all the other I Love Saipan stores because it will specifically showcase select snacks, beverages, and candies and diversify the range of snacks that the I Love Saipan stores have to offer.

Youn has observed that Saipan offers only a limited number of choices in the chocolate department. Their goal is to establish a spot that will showcase an array of chocolates. They plan to import different choices, mostly those that have not yet been sold on island.

Youn encourages the island to visit the shop and to see that they are genuine about diversifying their choices of snacks and sweets.

The "I Love Saipan" chain is well known on Saipan for its diverse selection of gifts at an affordable price. It is a popular stop for both local residents and visiting tourists. It has about five outlets on Saipan.

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BOE honors Dujua for his contributions to the arts

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education recognized Paul Dujua for his contribution to the Public School System, presenting him with a plaque last Thursday at the board's meeting.

In particular, the board honored Dujua for his role as musical director of the Marianas High School Glee Club, now called Rhythm 'N Harmony.

Herman Guerrero led other Board of Education members in presenting Dujua with a plaque. Dujua will soon relocate to the U.S. mainland.

Dujua first established the MHS Glee Club in 2010, starting with only 16 members.

The group competed in many local and international competitions, taking home



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
The CNMI Board of Education presents Paul Dujua with a plaque last Thursday to thank him for his contributions to the Public School System.

many accolades, including the top prize at the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam, the Sweepstakes Trophy. Today, the Rhythm 'N Harmony is known for its outstanding group performances.

According to Dujua, he is beyond honored that the board recognized his efforts and he is grateful to have made such an impact on the choir and PSS.

Despite his relocation, Dujua hopes that the school will continue to carry out the glee club program and to continue to inspire more students to express themselves through theater and music.

Tinian delegation urges PSS to screen contractors

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation urged the Public School System last week to look carefully at its bidders to balance cost with quality of service.

In a letter signed by delegation chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) addressed to PSS Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, he urged the PSS chief to "carefully review" bid submissions for the paving of the road and parking lot of the Tinian Elementary School.

Currently, the head of the PSS Capital Improvement Projects Office is Glenn Muña. Muña would be overlooking all projects pertaining to PSS campuses throughout the CNMI.

"Often times, our procurement regulations that limit projects to the lowest qualified bidders ultimately result in change orders that delay projects and increase costs," said Hofschneider in the letter.

"Carefully review each bidding contractor's background to include the past projects completed, the quality of work produced, their overall financial statuses, etc."

The delegation urged PSS to do so in the belief that "forthcoming improvements will reflect the desired results that will not only benefit PSS but, most especially, the students and parents."

Deleon Guerrero has been looking to resolve many issues at the TES campus.

After PSS received a hefty \$10 million in additional appropriations from Public Law 19-75 in late 2016, PSS, under the leadership of Deleon Guerrero has been looking to address issues that face Tinian and Rota, which has earned the praise of Board of Education members Florine Hofschneider representing Tinian and Herman Atalig representing Rota.

20 graduate from LTA health courses

The Latte Training Academy, Inc. held a completion ceremony last month for 20 residents who took up allied health courses.

The organization recognized the 20 for completing courses on certified medical billing & coding specialist, certified phlebotomy technician, and certified nursing assistant, instructed through training partner Guam Marianas Training Center here on Saipan.

Each student completed their respective course and will sit for the national certification examination.

Each program, accredited through the National Healthcareer Association and the American Medical Certification Association, requires 80 to 160 hours of coursework as well as practicum experience prior to sitting for the examinations.

The Latte Training Academy, a 501c3 non-profit, has trained and certified over 500 CNMI residents in the areas of hotel & hospitality and allied health fields in just three short years.

The successes of these courses led the organization to add business and informa-

tion technology certification courses to its offerings.

"We are concentrating our efforts on the industries that are most affected by the CW immigration issues," said LTA director Tina Palacios.

LTA president Juan-Carlos Benitez said: "We are very proud of the work that we have done thus far. Our organization and student accomplishments speak for themselves. These training achievements and their impact on the islands' increased reliance on local workforce were highlighted in the CNMI's testimony at the U.S. Senate

hearing in Washington, D.C. While we are grateful for the success that our students have achieved, we certainly are not in this alone. The business community and our partners have played a critical role in ensuring that our students find success in the workplace."

During the July Chamber of Commerce meeting, Chamber president Velma Palacios said of the Latte Training Academy attainments, "These results are the type of hard numbers we need to see in response to the CW immigration issue."

LTA is looking forward to the governor's transfer of the administration of the CW funding to the Scholarship Of-

fice next fiscal year.

"This will allow students to choose their program of choice at any training facility including LTA. Being recognized as a facility eligible for that funding source will not only help our programs to expand but allow students greater access and choice," said LTA executive director Arielle Buyum.

In addition to providing workforce development, LTA gives back to the community. The organization donated over \$6,000 in the wake of Typhon Soudelor. In addition, LTA provides \$11,000 each year in college scholarships. This year's scholarship winners will soon be announced. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCC's GREL committee to meet

The Government Relations Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be meeting this Thursday, July 27, 2017, at 9am in the SCC conference room. The one-hour meeting offer unique insights, suggestions, or comments concerning urgent legislations that may affect the business community.

If you are interested in joining the discussion, contact chamber administrator/coordinator Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at 234-7150, administrator@saipanchamber.com. If you are unable to attend but feel strongly about a certain bill, send comments by Wednesday, July 26, 2017. Company representatives are always welcome. (PR)

Road closure for sewer line installation

The intersection of Chalan Pale Arnold Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road will be closed until Friday, July 28, 2017, 6pm for a sewer line installation. The Com-

monwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor for the W-4, W-5 and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination Project, Hong Ye Construction, will be completing the last 150 feet to 200 feet installation of sewer main for the contract. For the safety of the men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

There is currently a sewer line replacement project in Garapan due to a collapsed line along Coral Tree Avenue fronting the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. CUC's contractor, RNV Construction, will be working to replace the collapsed line until Aug. 13, 2017.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/>). (PR)

Military training at FDM, Barrigada

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training

at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- July 25, from 7pm to 11pm
- July 26, from 9am to 4pm

The military will also conduct training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada on July 26-27, from 5am to 1pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

These trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

VA benefits outreach on Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be visiting Saipan on Aug. 31, 2017, and will be

conducting a benefits workshop/claims clinic and outreach at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Supe. The workshop/claims clinic will be from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Veterans will also be meeting one-on-one with the benefit counselor from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. (PR)

Ayuda invites public to fair

The Ayuda Network, Inc. is inviting the public to a Community and Partnership Fair on Saturday, July 29, at the Filcom Pavilion/Civic Center basketball court from 7:30am to 4pm. The purpose of the fair is to acknowledge and promote network partners for their 25 years of support and contributions to the Ayuda Network, Inc. and the 15 years of advocacy support and contributions to the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition. For more information, contact the Ayuda Network at 322-7469 or ayudanet@ayuda-cnmi.org or crsp.ayudanet1@gmail.com. (PR)

Registration at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School is reminding that all students, new and returning, must register for school year 2017-2018. Returning students must submit a registration form, medical clearance (blue card), and student insurance.

In addition to the three requirements, new students must submit their birth certificate, copy of last report card from the previous school year, transfer out form (if applicable), and map of residence.

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School school zone is south of DPA Car Mart to Koblerville (south of St. Jude Church) and includes the As Gonno area.

All registration forms must be submitted at the office. Upon submission, the office staff will provide free meal applications.

The school supplies lists are available at National Office, Modern Stationary, and at FMS Middle School. (PR)



The MYPros pose for a picture during the White Sand Gala last Saturday at the Surf Rider.

ERWIN ENCINARES



MYPros members enjoy the light breeze during the White Sand Gala last Saturday at the Surf Rider.

ERWIN ENCINARES



MYPros' Young Professional of the Year nominees Tribe Marianas co-founder Rob Travilla and Xerox Corp. executive and recipient of the award Nola Hix pose with nominees for MYPros' Bridge Capital Spotlight Award Marianas Geotech Services owner James "Bill" Ripple, second right, and Hofschneider Engineering project engineer Emanuel "Manny" Borja, rightmost.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts representatives Maxine Laszlo and Jenny Hegland enjoy the company of MY Pros events committee member Ciara Ada.



MYPros members celebrate the second anniversary of the non-profit group, which is led by president Matt Deleon Guerrero and vice president Nola Hix.



MYPros Volunteer of the Year Maxine Laszlo, left, of CARE poses with nominee Jihan Buniag of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and Becky Furey of the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance representing Wayne Dawe of the same organization.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Guests begin to arrive for the MYPros' White Sand Gala last Saturday at the Surf Rider.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Guests make themselves comfortable while awaiting the start of the MYPros' White Sand Gala last Saturday at the Surf Rider.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Joeten Motor Co. said yesterday that two of its technicians, Hubert Smith Agulto and Allen Roy B. Aldan, have successfully completed the Yamaha Comprehensive Marine Technical Outboard training.

Alongside other Yamaha technicians from around the world, Agulto and Aldan passed the Yamaha basic outboard certification and bronze level certification test. The training was held at Yamaha's state-of-the-art facilities in Shizuoka, Japan.

The Yamaha certification covers all aspects of Yamaha outboard service including maintenance, installation, troubleshooting, diagnostics, fuel systems, and electrical systems. Agulto found the training to be a great experience.

"I was able to learn more about Yamaha outboard motors, motorcycles, generators, and engines, including how

each part functions and what tools will help me get the job done," Agulto said.

Aldan, for his part, found the training to be a blast because they were given the opportunity to apply hands-on what they learned throughout the training.

"We were taught how to work professionally, shown how each machine works inside and out, and instructed on what tools are needed for a particular job," he said.

Both technicians commented that no matter how good a mechanic you are, proper training through the dealership and the manufacturer is essential.

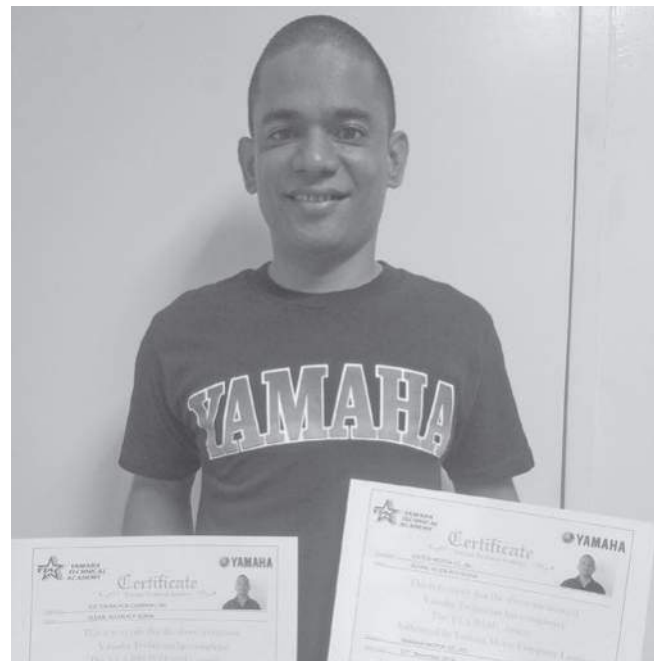
Joeten Motors continues to strive to provide customers with excellence service by sending its technicians to exclusive manufacturer training and recognizing any accomplishments received as a result of such training. **(PR)**

Yamaha certifies two Joeten Motors technicians



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hubert Smith Agulto of Joeten Motor Co. shows off the certificate he got after the Yamaha Comprehensive Marine Technical Outboard training in Shizuoka, Japan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Motor Co. technician Allen Roy B. Aldan shows off the certificate he got after successfully completing the Yamaha Comprehensive Marine Technical Outboard training in Shizuoka, Japan.

Campaign to inspire Pacific women launched

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Representatives of the 26 countries and territories that govern the Secretariat of the Pacific Community who have gathered in Noumea, New Caledonia, this week for the organization's biennial conference, participated yesterday in the official launch of a regional campaign that celebrates the

legacy of Pacific women.

The Inspiring Pacific Women campaign, which also coincides with SPC's 70th anniversary celebrations, will highlight the significant contribution of 70 women or groups of women toward the social, economic, cultural, and political development of SPC's Pacific Island country and territory members.

Speaking at yesterday's launch, SPC director-general Dr. Colin Tukuitonga said, "Without the strength and resilience of our women, the Pacific and our communities would be quite different today. We increasingly hear about the Pacific women of our past who broke barriers and inspired so many women—navigators of our Pacific Ocean,

sportswomen, writers, and poets. They are all Pacific leaders. The 70 Inspiring Pacific women initiative celebrates their legacy."

Tukuitonga also paid tribute to the first woman at the helm of SPC, Lourdes Pangelinan, who features as the inaugural profile in the regional campaign.


"I am told Ms. Lourdes Pangelinan often describes herself

as a simple Chamorro woman, yet she pushed the boundaries in terms of women's leadership and became a role model for women in the region," Tukuitonga said.


Earlier this year, SPC made a general call for submissions to assist with identifying suitable candidates for the campaign and over the next 70 days, each successful submission will be shared via SPC's corporate media platforms and regional media partners.

The campaign will culminate with start of the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and Meeting for Pacific Ministers for Women, which will be hosted in Suva, Fiji in October this year.

SPC member representatives are attending the organization's 47th Meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations and 10th Conference of the Pacific Community in Noumea from July 24 to 28. **(SPC)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
 2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-023

SUPPLY, DELIVERY & INSTALLATION OF NEW PERIMETER FENCE FOR THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION FACILITY, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Supply, Delivery & Installation of New Perimeter Fence for the Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Facility, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 11, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the project site, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 11, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-023"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time August 16, 2017**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, August 16, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 16, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **August 25, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, August 30, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on August 16, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
 Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
 Director of Procurement & Supply



CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE




CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

How to Start a Business

Tuesday, July 25th, 2017

8:30am—11:00am

**Location: CDA Board Room,
1st Floor, San Jose**

Presented by:
Nicole Babauta, CNMI SBDC Director/Business Advisor



This workshop will help individuals learn everything they will need to get started, including an introduction to business plans and the importance of preparing one; exploring the legal forms of business (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability partnership / company) and which one is right for your business needs; local or federal licensing requirements for the business. Participants will be able to obtain vital information and resources to start and own a business. This training will take the mystery out of starting a business and help participants better evaluate their business idea.

Limited Seating.

Register now at: pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com

For more information or to reserve your seats today, contact the CNMI SBDC at 670-664-3018 or visit www.pacificsbdc.com

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with enough advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670)664-3018 or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Warning signs: New studies provide clues to dementia onset

While researchers haven't yet found a way to prevent or cure dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, they're making progress on how to catch it early. The findings from three new studies, two from the University of Wisconsin and one from Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, are important for better understanding cognitive declines that steal life from the living and strain the health care system.

The university created the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention to study men and women with family histories of dementia. One of the new studies found a correlation between hearing loss and mild cognitive decline in 9.2 percent of 783 participants over four years. Hearing loss is easy to measure and could be a readily observable early-warning sign of dementia.

The study documented the hearing loss among participants in late middle age, compared to traditional dementia studies focusing on older people, and that is important because treatment for dementia should begin as early as possible. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine noted that last month in a report lamenting the significant gaps in knowledge about Alzheimer's and recommending a doubling down on research into dementia.

The second University of Wisconsin study found a correlation between diminished oral fluency and cognitive decline in about 25 percent of 264 participants, who were drawn from the registry and followed for as long as 10 years. Researchers noted hesitations, word repetition and other minor changes in some of those who also were found to have experienced cognitive loss.

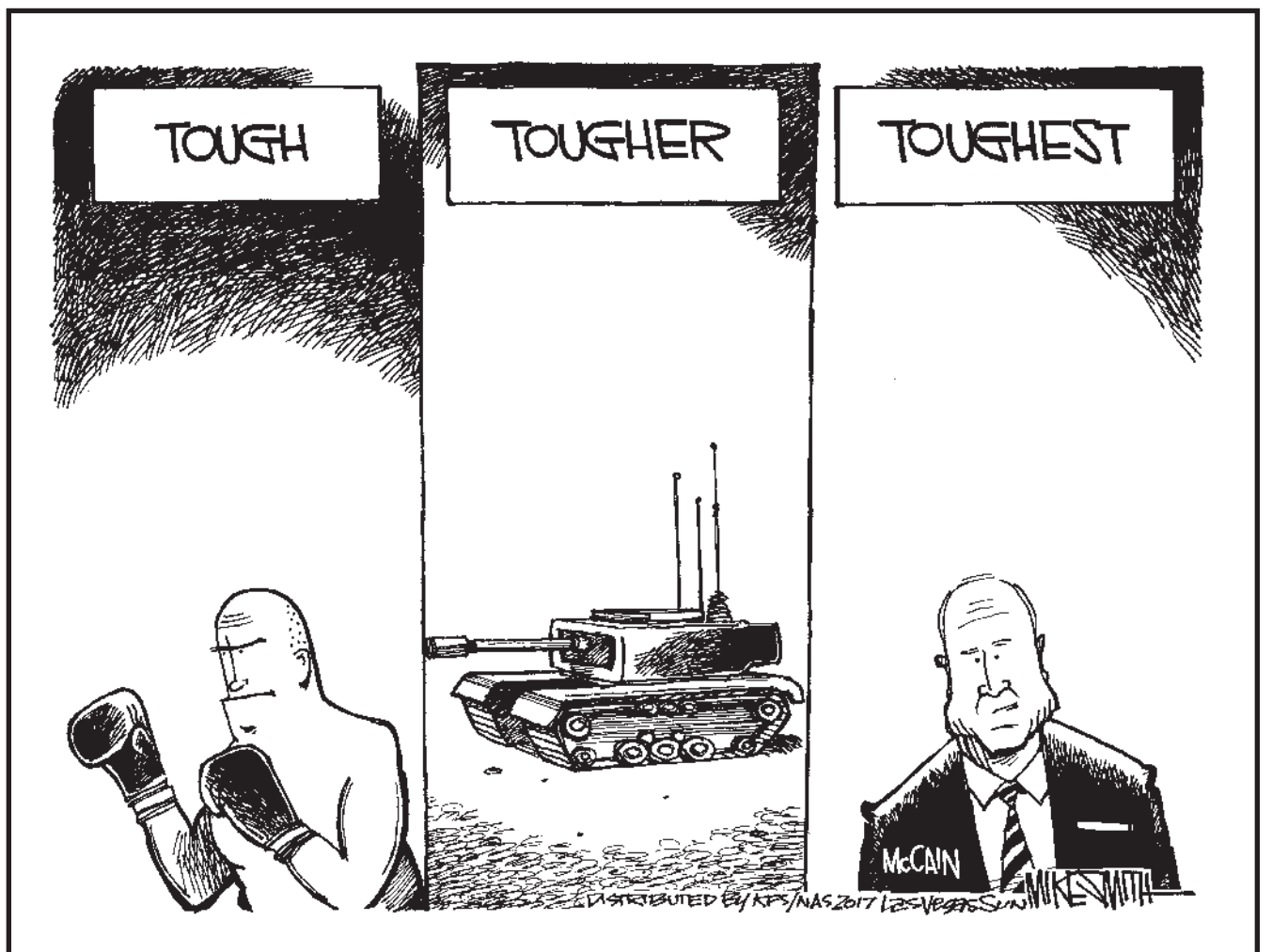
As with hearing decline, these are changes that might easily be measured and used as a red flag, perhaps in the general practitioner's office, where screening for dementia should become as common as it is for depression and other chronic diseases.

In its study, Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, part of the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, found a correlation between cognitive declines and older people who have a higher number of hospitalizations for emergency care. This is another possible warning sign.

The National Academies said they were unable to provide definitive advice on how to prevent Alzheimer's, the sixth-leading cause of death in the U.S., because research studies hadn't provided enough clues. Their report said the best steps now are for people to be active, keep stimulating their brains and ride herd on their blood pressure — measures long considered important for general physical and brain health.

The academy also called for more research into dementia, including studies that focus on different social groups, such as young adults, with an eye toward early detection. The University of Wisconsin and Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center researchers already were on the case. With

(c)2017 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Trump six months in: How's it been?

Now that we're six months into the presidency of Donald Trump, it's time to make some evaluations.

On the economy, we've seen some important strides made. Markets have hit record highs — several times in recent days. Unemployment stands at 4.4 percent, down from 4.9 percent a year ago. Oil prices have remained stable, resulting in an average gasoline price of \$2.25 per gallon nationwide. That's only 5 cents more than a year ago.

Some economic indicators have been mixed, such as retail sales and housing. Other indicators, like the expanding trade deficit (likely to be more than \$500 billion this year) and economic growth (which slowed in the first quarter to 1.4 percent gross domestic product), are less positive.

On the president's policy proposals, not much progress has been made. There's only been a scant one-pager issued on tax reform. And with the president's trillion-dollar infrastructure idea, a mere six-pager is all that's been released. Both of these initiatives, if carried out correctly, would go a long way toward positively propelling the economy.

As for repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, a bill has passed the House of Representatives, but the Senate's efforts have come up short.

On the president's proposed border wall between the U.S. and Mexico, there's been no visible progress.

The single congressional feather in the president's cap is the confirmation by the Senate of his Supreme Court nominee, Judge Neil Gorsuch.

Trump not doing better is noteworthy given the Republicans (the president's party) have majorities of both houses of Congress. The circumstances won't get any easier in the short-term.

New tough tasks that lie ahead include the fiscal year-end budget battle and the need to increase the debt ceiling (both to be voted upon around the end of September).

Investigations into Russian election tampering and potential collusion between the Trump cam-

By **BART CHILTON**

Tribune News Service

Former U.S. Trading Commissioner Bart Chilton is a policy and political commentator and author of *Ponzimonium: How Scam Artists Are Ripping Off America*. He can be reached at bartchilton@bartchilton.com.



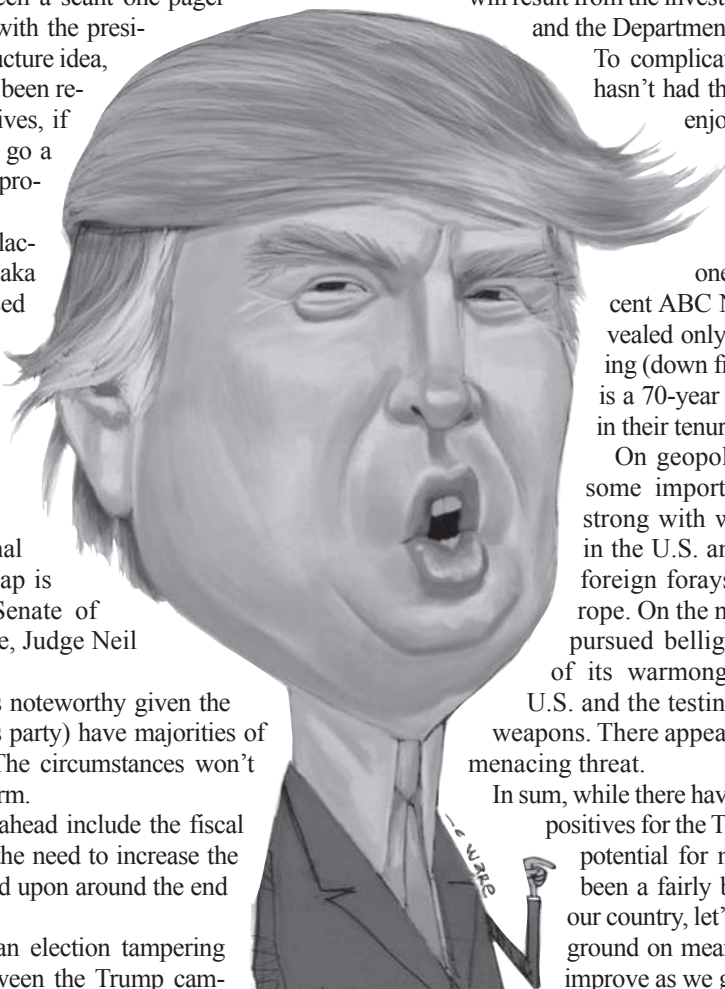
paign and Russians continue to dog the president. And while Trump and his spokespeople continue to insist nothing untoward took place, facts continue to be discovered that clearly cast doubt on such assertions. At this time, it's uncertain what, if anything, will result from the investigations underway by Congress and the Department of Justice's special counsel.

To complicate matters more, the president hasn't had the honeymoon period normally enjoyed by new presidents. Even

some Republicans have been critical. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., recently said an idea of the president's was one of the "dumbest" ever. A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll revealed only a 36 percent job approval rating (down from 42 percent in April), which is a 70-year low for presidents at this point in their tenure.

On geopolitics, the president has made some important progress. He started off strong with world leaders, hosting several in the U.S. and meeting many more on his foreign forays to the Middle East and Europe. On the negative side, North Korea has pursued belligerent behavior both in terms of its warmongering rhetoric aimed at the U.S. and the testing and proliferation of nuclear weapons. There appears to be no plan to address this menacing threat.

In sum, while there have been glimmers and gleams of positives for the Trump presidency — and there's potential for many more — it's nonetheless been a fairly bad beginning. For the sake of our country, let's hope the president gains good ground on meaningful matters and that things improve as we go forward.



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Take control: Reduce your risk of pre-diabetes and diabetes

By **MARIBETH V. MANIBUSAN, RD, CNSC**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that about 86 million Americans (about 1 in 3 people) have pre-diabetes, which is a condition in which blood glucose (sugar) levels are elevated but not high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. Untreated, these statistics will join the 29 million people who already have diabetes. If changes are not made, it is predicted that as many as 1 in 3 people in the U.S. will have diabetes by 2050.

Risk factors for developing pre-diabetes and diabetes include age (get tested if you're older than 45 with any additional risk factor), ethnicity (people of African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, Asian American or Pacific Islander descent have been shown to be at greater risk), family history of diabetes or history of gestational diabetes, obesity, an inactive lifestyle, high blood pressure, low HDL cholesterol and/or high triglycerides, and/or diagnosis of polycystic ovary syndrome, or PCOS.

We are fighting against an epidemic that has deeply affected not only our nation but our small island community. Chances are, you know more than one person with diabetes. Here in the CNMI, a survey conducted in 2016 by Public Health's Non-Communicable Disease Bureau estimated that between 12.5 percent to 18.7 percent of all adults in the CNMI have

diabetes. It's also important to note that one fourth of the population surveyed admits to never having their blood sugar checked at all. Additional facts to consider: more than half of adults in the CNMI are overweight or obese, three out of four adults drink at least one sugar sweetened beverage per day, over two-thirds eat at least one serving of processed meat per day, and the majority of those surveyed only eat two servings of fruit or vegetables daily when the recommended intake is 5-9 servings per day.

Considering all these findings (and the NCDB has more), it can be presumed that the prevalence of pre-diabetes and diabetes is much higher than reported. After all, about 90 percent of those with pre-diabetes don't even know it.

Even if you are not currently at risk, without proper self-care, over time your risk for developing pre-diabetes or diabetes will increase.

What can you do? Adopt a healthier lifestyle! You can start by making healthier food choices like eating whole grains, more whole fruits, vegetables and legumes, while limiting added sugars and food high in fat and salt. Also, any increase in physical activity can go a long way. Working out does not have to mean going to the gym five days a week (if you do, great). Physical activity can be a daily 30-minute walk around the yard or your nearest pathway, playing outside with your children, taking the stairs instead of an elevator, or even parking in the farthest spot from the store and walking. Start with

small, realistic goals and expand from there.

If you are overweight, a loss of 5-7 percent of your body weight can reduce your risk for developing diabetes. So for example if you are 180 lbs and you lose about 9-13 lbs (180 lbs x 0.07 = 13 lbs) you have significantly decreased your risk!

If you are serious about making changes, consider tracking your goals and progress to keep yourself accountable. Writing down what you eat and drink and even your feelings surrounding your meal choices can help you make more mindful decisions when it comes to food. If you have a smart phone, download a free app or you can do it the old-fashioned way and write in a journal.

Also, stay positive! One slip up in your day does not mean you get to quit working toward your goals (in anything that you do). Take charge of your health and applaud yourself for even small changes you've made toward a healthier lifestyle.

The complications of uncontrolled diabetes can negatively impact every aspect of your life and the lives of your loved ones. Discuss your needs and concerns with your healthcare provider. You can also find more information online at the websites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the American Diabetes Association. You have the power to delay or lower your risk for developing diabetes.

Maribeth V. Manibusan, RD, CNSC, is a registered dietitian at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Stephen Hawking is wrong about our potential to save our planet

By **GEORGE BALL**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Recently, renowned theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking said we should colonize the moon and Mars as soon as possible. He predicts that, figuratively speaking, Mother Earth runs out of milk by 2117, and we should exit the planet before then.

Hawking's prediction sounds more rhetorical than theoretical. Because of his fame, the public will take his warning as literal. As an international seedsman, I think he is wrong.

Mother Earth has a maximum carrying capacity of 35.5 billion people—up from today's population of 7.5 billion—at 1,500 calories per person per day. At this rate full capacity will be achieved in about 105 years. Our population continues to increase; we ranch, farm, and fish everywhere we can; everyone is fed.

Assume that the world's population doubles every 40 years and that, worldwide, a healthy daily caloric intake averages 1,500. Calculate all animals, fish, plants, grains, wild game, algae, and human breast milk. Moreover, assume that all of

Earth's arable as well as grazing land can be developed fully by the year 2123.

While you might conclude from my counter-prediction that Hawking is correct, you would have to deny that humans are creative, resourceful and innovative. You'd be wrong.

Approximately 10,000 years ago, we invented a highly engineered food—bread. Regarding bread's main ingredient, Nobel plant breeder Norman Borlaug saved 245 million lives through breeding a shorter and more productive wheat plant—just one plant and one person fed almost a quarter billion people. If we can land on the moon, we can engineer new foods in great abundance.

It is universally accepted that malnutrition is caused by poverty, and poverty by social conflict, instability and war. No freedom, no free markets. Also, food distribution depends on road quality. No well-paved roads, no effective distribution. Such mundane realities may not occur to a gifted theoretical physicist.

Unlike Hawking, I can speak only about farmers. Global warming, air pollution, and asteroid collisions elude me.

I base my observations not on disaster, but on the power of

what the ancient Greeks called Gaia. She is more fecund than all the world's inhabitants combined.

Add Gaia's air, water, sunlight, and genes to our ability to till the soil, harvest the seas, and tend the herds and flocks. The results are miracles. The trick is to be selective and to worship—that is, to follow—Gaia, as did Borlaug, and both Gregor Mendel, known as the father of modern genetics, and Charles Darwin, author of the theory of evolution.

Hawking is wrong not about Mother Earth, but about ourselves. To paraphrase Alexander Pope, we are Hawking's proper study. Let us examine what keeps us from creating optimal horticultural and agricultural production, as well as excellent transportation to all of the world's markets.

We shorten our lives by killing, maiming, and starving one another. Stop that, build great roads, and we shall live on Earth forever.

George Ball is chairman and CEO of the W. Atlee Burpee Co., and a past president of the American Horticultural Society in Washington. He wrote this for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may email him at herrlueffle@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ahead of the times

I have always been "ahead of the times" and it is truly a blessing to have this talent. But too many people have chosen to do all they can to make sure my talents were not used to help the CNMI, thus my only resolve was to tell them "I told you so"! For those readers who have followed my writings, you already know that I wrote about the need to end double-dipping years ago when the Retirement Fund died, so ending double-dipping is really another "I told you so" for me. In fact, I'm sure the governor will even confirm the proposed plan I presented him months ago to end double-dipping and to initiate a repatriation program.

Why did it take all these years for the Legislature to finally act is my question and are they going to get it right? We should have been trying to put retirees back into the workforce a long time ago, given the CW crisis. But ending double-dipping alone is not enough. I know retirees are praying there are no "ifs, buts or ands" to the law. Retirees should be able to continue receiving their retirement pensions for life without any penalties, especially when we are all penalized for life by the Social Security Administration for having been a member of the Retirement Fund!

Our leaders also need to be aware that ending the double-dipping and not having a plan to repatriate the many retirees who have started new careers in the mainland could be a challenge. Many retirees left because of the double-dipping law and you can bet they are not in a hurry to make the sacrifices to return if they have to pay their airfare and they don't even have a guaranteed job. The CNMI must establish a repatriation program that is more than justifiable for the Department of the Interior to fund, given the pressure we are getting from the feds about our CWs. It's clearly a give-and-take issue the feds can't deny and must support.

I can only pray this won't fall on deaf ears in the Legislature again because it's another outsider suggestion. It may be as simple as a joint resolution with the governor's support to convince Interior to support and fund a repatriation plan that will surely help to repatriate locals, eliminating some of our dependency upon CWs while refurbishing family ties and strengthening the cultural fabric of the CNMI.






Ending double-dipping is also critical if we go ahead and le-

galize marijuana in a timely fashion because every day we wait is another day late for progress and prosperity. The legalization legislation that I worked on is now with the senator and the bill requires "only U. S. citizens to work in the cannabis industry(s)." We will need a lot of the retired people in the mainland who have experience in the cannabis industries to return, not to mention the other jobs in both public and private that they can fill. While I must commend the governor for his effort to hire more of our youth and to avoid hiring retirees because of the double-dipping law, we do need to open more doors for our youth who will surely take over one day. However, wisdom dictates there needs to be a balance between the old and the new as there is no substitute for "experience and wisdom" that only comes with age! So, to a large degree, retirees are still needed in government agencies, especially those agencies that have already gone public about their need for professional employees.

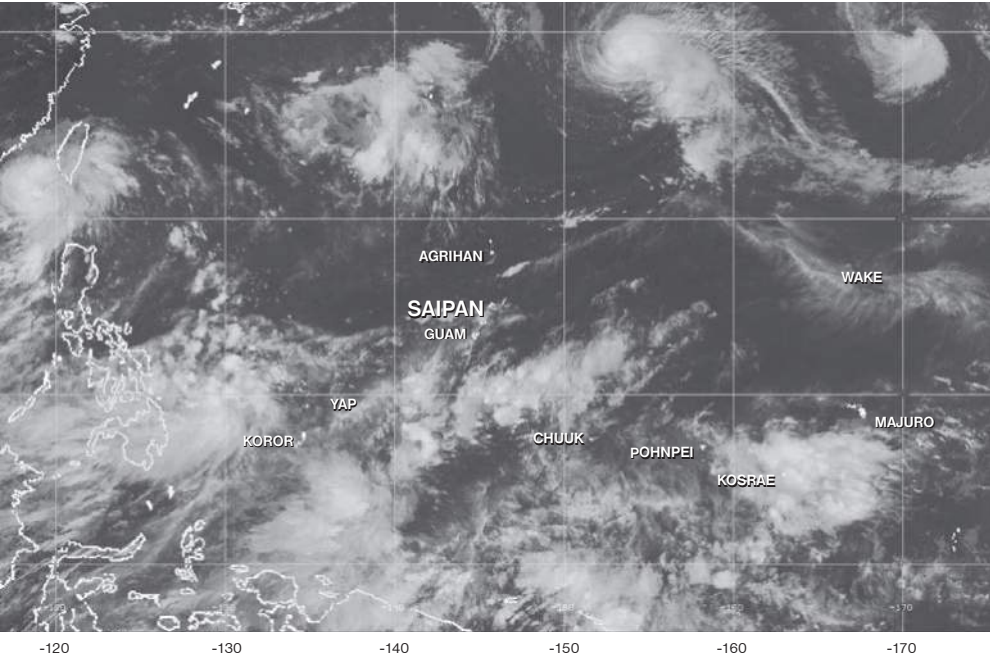
Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. south winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. south winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:20 AM, MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes made to the inherited forecast. Isolated thunderstorms remain in the forecast for today and tonight. Models indicate that the ridging between the tropical systems to the north and the monsoon trough to the south will remain over the region through next weekend. This will promote partly cloudy skies and only a few showers for the next week. Southeast to south winds will gradually shift to the southwest over the next few days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	59° / 48°	
Beijing	Rain	72° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 66°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 39°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
New York	Showers	74° / 64°	
Osaka	Showers	93° / 79°	
Paris	Showers	73° / 55°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	82° / 73°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	84° / 66°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 55°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 70°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:02 AM	LOW TIDE	1.00	
8:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.05	
3:19 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.48	
10:05 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.03	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:29 AM	8:25 PM	-
Wednesday	8:27 AM	9:12 PM	-
Thursday	9:22 AM	9:56 PM	-
Friday	10:15 AM	10:37 PM	-
Saturday	11:05 AM	11:18 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 22, 2017									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA63944:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)					GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)					ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4			7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7			TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily			TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily			LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7			7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5			7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1			JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4			JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7			MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily			DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM			PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM			UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4			UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR						
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM						
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM						
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			U042	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
U043	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			U042	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM			U042	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3

Business

White House indicates Trump would sign new sanctions bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House indicated Sunday President Donald Trump would sign a sweeping Russia sanctions measure, which the House could take up this week, that requires him to get Congress' permission before lifting or easing the economic penalties against Moscow.

Lawmakers are scheduled to consider the sanctions package as early as Tuesday, and the bill could be sent to Trump before Congress breaks for the August recess. The legislation is aimed at punishing Moscow for meddling in the presidential election and its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the newly appointed White House press secretary, said the administration is supportive of being tough on Russia and "particularly putting these sanctions in place."

"We support where the legislation is now, and will continue to work with the House and Senate to put those tough



AP
In this May 2, 2017 file photo, Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., speaks to members of the media as he arrives for a policy luncheon with Vice President Mike Pence, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

changes that were necessary." She didn't specify what those changes were, however. The congressional review section wasn't altered substantially and Democrats were satisfied with the results.

Lawmakers included the review because of wariness in both parties over Trump's affinity for Putin. Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, the top ranking Democrat on the Foreign Affairs Committee, said Trump has been unwilling to respond seriously to Russia's belligerence, "leaving Congress with the urgent responsibility to hold Vladimir Putin accountable."

McCarthy had pushed to add the North Korea sanctions to the package. The House had overwhelmingly passed legislation in May to hit Pyongyang with additional economic penalties, but the Senate had yet to take up the bill.

The Senate last month passed sanctions legislation that targeted only Russia and Iran. Congressional aides said Senate Republicans may resist adding the North Korea penalties, but it remained unclear whether those concerns would derail the legislation. The aides were not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Although the legislation has widespread support, the bill stalled after clearing the Senate more than five weeks ago due to constitutional questions and bickering over technical details.

Longtime assistant should give dying boss his due respect

Q: One of the two partners in the law firm where I work has a terminal illness. "Jim" is 75 years old and needs an oxygen tank yet he insists on coming to work every day. He does absolutely nothing except watch videos on his computer and create disruption in the office. I'm aware of Jim's activities because I've been his assistant for 37 years.

Even though Jim has no significant billings, he expects to receive a full paycheck. With Jim milking the firm for everything he can get, other employees haven't been given the raises they deserve. We're just stuck in a holding pattern until he dies. What should be done about this?

A: Let me get this straight: After being this gentleman's assistant for almost four decades, you resent the fact that he wants to keep working during his illness. You are also upset because he takes money from his own business to help with expenses in his old age. Now you are eagerly awaiting his death so that you can get a raise. Wow.

If this horrendously callous attitude reflects pent-up anger at a difficult boss, then you should have left a long time ago. If you chose to endure an intolerable job for 37 years, you have no one to blame but yourself. And if

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



you stayed because you were generously compensated, you are being extremely ungrateful.

Personally, I hope Jim finds some solace in having a familiar place to spend his last days. Should his actions begin to harm the business, those issues must be addressed by the other partner. Despite your long tenure, you are not an owner, so such decisions are simply above your paygrade.

When Jim's presence becomes annoying or disruptive, try to remember that he's tired and sick and scared. If you can truly imagine what that must feel like, this experience might actually make you a more compassionate person.

Q: After working for one year, a professional employee was required to take a refresher course in his field of study. When this person failed the final exam, his supervisor began to question whether the degree listed on his resume was

valid. Because a degree is required for the position, this employee has now been asked to provide a college transcript. Is that legal?

A: Not being an attorney, I can't offer legal opinions. However, I can say that when an employer has reason to suspect falsified qualifications, validating that information is the next logical step. This would be especially true for a degree required to meet professional standards.

If you are the person in question, and if you actually did graduate, then you should have nothing to fear. But if you lied on your resume, you could be in danger of losing this job. Many people have been fired after falsehoods were discovered on their applications.

Of course, the employer is also at fault for neglecting to include a thorough background check in the hiring process. Managers who fail to validate qualifications are every bit as stupid as the applicants who fabricate them.

sanctions in place on Russia until the situation in Ukraine is fully resolved," Sanders said on ABC's "This Week."

Congressional Republicans and Democrats announced Saturday that they'd settled lingering issues with the bill, which also includes stiff economic penalties against Iran and North Korea. The sanctions targeting Russia, however, have drawn the most attention due to Trump's persistent push for warmer relations with President Vladimir Putin and ongoing investigations into Russia's interference in the 2016 campaign.

"North Korea, Iran and Russia have in different ways all threatened their neighbors and actively sought to undermine American interests," according to a joint statement by California Republicans Kevin

McCarthy, the House majority leader, and Ed Royce of California, the Foreign Affairs Committee chairman. The bill the House will vote, they said, "will now exclusively focus on these nations and hold them accountable for their dangerous actions."

The White House had objected to a key section of the bill that would mandate a congressional review if Trump attempts to terminate the sanctions against Moscow. Top administration officials said the provisions infringed on the president's executive authority and tied his hands as he explores avenues of cooperation between the two former Cold War foes. But Sanders said the White House was able to work with the House and Senate to "make those

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Average US gas prices rise a penny, reversing 11-week trend

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of a gallon of regular-grade gasoline rose about a penny nationally over the past two weeks, to \$2.32. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the slight increase comes after 11 weeks of decline. The current price is about 10 cents above where it was a year ago. Gas in Reno, Nevada, was the most expensive in the contiguous United States at an average of \$2.99 a gallon. The cheapest was in Jackson, Mississippi, at \$1.97 a gallon. The U.S. average diesel price is \$2.51, the

same as it was two weeks ago.

Australian consumer watchdog investigates air bag recall

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's consumer watchdog said on Monday it was urgently seeking information from the government regulator and car manufacturers after a magazine reported that recalled Takata air bags were being replaced by faulty air bags. Australian consumer magazine Choice discovered car makers were refitting faulty Takata air bags in recalled vehicles as a temporary solution after questioning 14 car manufacturers in Australia. Many confirmed that a percentage of the vehicles

were refitted with like-for-like replacements and would need to be recalled again, Choice spokesman Tom Godfrey said. The Japanese-manufactured air bags have been linked to 18 deaths around the world by firing metal shards when deploying, including a man killed this month near Sydney. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, the consumer watchdog, said some of the 2.3 million recalled cars in Australia had been fitted with Takata air bags treated with a water-absorbing chemical designed to address the problem. But these may also degrade and the air bags may need to be replaced in six months, the commission said in a statement.

Nation

9 die in immigrant-smuggling attempt in sweltering truck

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—At least nine people died after being crammed into a sweltering tractor-trailer found parked outside a Walmart in the mid-summer Texas heat, victims of what authorities said on Sunday was an immigrant-smuggling attempt gone wrong.

The driver was arrested, and nearly 20 others rescued from the rig were hospitalized in dire condition, many with extreme dehydration and heat-stroke, officials said.

“We’re looking at a human-trafficking crime,” said San Antonio Police Chief William McManus, calling it “a horrific tragedy.”

One U.S. official said Sunday evening that 17 of those rescued were being treated for injuries that were considered life-threatening. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the information has not been publicly released.

Authorities were called to the San Antonio parking lot late Saturday or early Sunday and found eight people dead inside the truck. A ninth victim died at the hospital, said Liz Johnson, spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



San Antonio police officers investigate the scene where eight people were found dead in a tractor-trailer loaded with at least 30 others outside a Walmart store in stifling summer heat in what police are calling a horrific human trafficking case, Sunday, July 23, 2017, in San Antonio.

The victims “were very hot to the touch. So these people were in this trailer without any signs of any type of water,” San Antonio Fire Chief Charles Hood said.

Authorities would not say whether the trailer was locked when they arrived, but they said it had no working air conditioning.

It was just the latest smuggling-by-truck operation to end in tragedy. In one of the worst cases on record in the U.S., 19 immigrants locked inside a stifling rig died in Victoria, Texas, in 2003.

Based on initial interviews with survivors of the San Antonio tragedy, more than 100 people may have been packed

into the back of the 18-wheeler at one point in its journey, ICE acting Director Thomas Homan said. Officials said 39 people were inside when rescuers arrived, and the rest were believed to have escaped or hitched rides to their next destination.

Some of the survivors told authorities they were from Mexico,

and four appeared to be between 10 and 17 years old, Homan said. Investigators gave no details on where the rig began its journey or where it was headed.

But Homan said it was unlikely the truck was used to carry the immigrants across the border into the United States. He said people from Latin America who rely on smuggling networks typically cross the border on foot and are then picked up by a driver.

“Even though they have the driver in custody, I can guarantee you there’s going to be many more people we’re looking for to prosecute,” Homan said.

Mexican Consul General in San Antonio Reyna Torres said Mexican nationals were among the survivors and those who died on the rig. The consulate has been in contact with family members both in Mexico and the U.S., Torres said.

Some urge sprinkler mandates across US after Honolulu fire

HONOLULU (AP)—When Moon Yun Pellerin’s parents bought a 27th-floor apartment in a high-rise overlooking Waikiki about 15 years ago, they didn’t realize the wave-shaped building had no fire sprinklers.

“We didn’t even consider it,” Pellerin said.

But a week after a massive fire broke out one floor below her apartment, killing three neighbors, Pellerin and her family “definitely want sprinklers” installed—even if it means spending thousands of dollars.

The Marco Polo Apartments were built in 1971, before sprinklers became mandatory for new construction in Honolulu.

Despite local lawmakers’ efforts to require older buildings to install sprinkler systems, officials estimate about 300 high-rises on Oahu still lack the fire prevention measure.

Across the United States, cities have a mixed bag of laws on whether older high-rise apartment buildings must install fire sprinklers that weren’t required when the towers were first built. Many—including New York, Chicago, Dallas and San Francisco—still have high-rises without the safety measure.

Cost is often cited. But after Honolulu’s deadly July 14 fire, some question whether financial concerns outweigh the potential for tragedy.

Here’s a look at how the sprinkler debate is playing out in several U.S. cities:

HONOLULU

In the inferno’s aftermath, Honolulu’s fire chief said sprinklers would have contained the blaze to the unit where it started, possibly saving the lives of those who died in nearby apartments. Mayor Kirk Caldwell introduced a bill a few days later that would require all high-rises to have sprinklers, even older ones.

“I don’t know what it’s going to take for apartment owners as well as associations to see the value of human life,” said Hawaii state Sen. Glenn Wakai, who plans to introduce legislation offering homeowners incentives to install sprinkler systems.

The fire was not the first one at the 36-story Marco Polo building—and not the first time the question of installing sprinklers has come up. After a 2013 fire, the building’s association asked an engineering firm for cost estimates to replace the fire alarm system and install sprinklers.

The company concluded it would be about \$8,000 per unit to install sprinklers, or about \$4.5 million for the whole building. Sprinklers were never installed.

“It’s a tough issue for these associations because they are grappling with a lot of different costs,” said Evan Fujimoto, president of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii. “When you’re dealing with an association, you might have 500 different people. How do you get people to agree on it?”

Constraints on city and state budgets also play a role.

Wakai first introduced legislation in 2005 after another deadly fire, proposing incentives that would cover 35 percent of the cost. But the budget was tight, and the bill ultimately failed after the incentive was reduced to just 5 percent.

SAN FRANCISCO

A pair of deadly 2015 fires in San Francisco prompted city leaders to look at requiring automatic sprinklers in older residential buildings. But the idea faltered after landlords and officials raised concerns about the cost and logistics.

“The sprinklers work—we know that—but the problem is, you’ve got these old buildings, and it’s expensive, and

there’s going to be resistance on the part of the landlords,” said Tommi Avicelli Mecca, director of counseling programs at the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco.

In 1993, San Francisco required that high-rise commercial buildings and tourist hotels be retrofitted with sprinklers, but the mandate excluded residential and historical buildings.

CHICAGO

In Chicago, a fire that killed six people at a downtown county government building in 2003 prompted officials to enact a host of safety measures.

Just weeks after the fire, in which victims died in stairwells after doors locked behind them, the City Council passed an ordinance requiring that the doors of the high-rises remain unlocked.

Two years later, the city passed what is called the Life Safety Evaluation Ordinance, which requires residential buildings 80 feet (24 meters) or higher that were built before 1975 to be equipped with various safety features such as voice communication systems and fire-rated doors and frames in stairways. But it does not require them to retroactively install sprinklers.

Groups make DIY bike lanes to show US cities what could be

DALLAS (AP)—A makeshift bike lane divider made of painted two-by-fours and PVC pipes lasted three days on a busy Dallas street last month before the city removed it, which was two days longer than its creators expected.

The \$100 structure was the work of the Dallas Transformation Department, one of several like-minded groups of anonymous Twitter users who have taken a do-it-yourself approach to making road improvements in cities stretching from New York and Boston to San Francisco.

Activists say a flower planted in a pothole or a line of cones or toilet plungers to keep cars from drifting into bike lanes can have the magical psychological effect of getting drivers to slow down and watch for cyclists and pedestrians. Although the measures are meant to be temporary, they can show the public what could be and spur cities to make permanent improvements.

“These transformation groups are creating change,

and we support that,” said Kathleen Ferrier, a spokeswoman for the Vision Zero Network, a group dedicated to eliminating traffic fatalities around the world. “What’s happening with guerrilla tactics is that they are creating more urgency. It’s helping people imagine and experience what change could be like.”

Last month’s project was the first for the Dallas Transformation Department, but it plans more.

“We knew it wouldn’t be permanent. It would take a few times, but we believe people should have the power to give their neighborhoods value,” said Layne, a group spokesman who declined to give his last name because the project was technically considered vandalism by the city.

City officials say it’s not that simple. Business owners complain when street parking is replaced with bike lanes, and firefighters worry that separated bike lanes could impede their emergency responses.

Asia

64 years after Korean War, North still digging up bombs

HAMHUNG, North Korea (AP)—In the 10 years he has been digging up ordnance from the Korean War, Maj. Jong Il Hyon has lost five colleagues to explosions. He carries a lighter one gave him before he died. He also bears a scar on his left cheek from a bomb disposal mission gone wrong.

Sixty-four years after it ended, the war is still giving up thousands of bombs, mortars and pieces of live ammunition. Virtually all of it is American, but Jong noted that more than a dozen other countries fought on the U.S. side, and every now and then their bombs will turn up as well.

“The experts say it will take 100 years to clean up all of the unexploded ordnance, but I think it will take much longer,” Jong said in an interview with The Associated Press at a construction site on the outskirts of Hamhung, North Korea’s second-largest city, where workers unearthed a rusted but still potentially deadly mortar round in February. Last October, 370 more were found



in a nearby elementary school playground.

According to Jong, his bomb squad is one of nine in North Korea, one for each province.

His unit alone handled 2,900 leftover explosives—including bombs, mortars and live artillery shells—last year. He said this year they have already disposed of about 1,200.

Fortunately, there have been only a few injuries in the past few years. But Jong said an 11-year-old boy who found a bomb in May lost several fingers when it went off while he was playing with it.

North Korea is just one of many countries still dealing with the explosive legacy of major wars. In Asia alone, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and even Japan have huge amounts of unexploded ordnance left to clean up.

The three-year Korean War,

which ended in what was supposed to be a temporary armistice on July 27, 1953, was one of the most brutal ever fought.

Virtually all of the 22 major cities in North Korea were severely damaged and hundreds of thousands of civilians killed by U.S. saturation bombing. The tonnage of bombs dropped on the North was about the same as the total dropped by the U.S. against Japan during World War II. North Korea is probably second only to Cambodia as the most heavily bombed country in history.

By 1952, the bombing was so complete that the Air Force had effectively run out of worthwhile targets.

North Koreans claim 400,000 bombs were dropped on Pyongyang alone, roughly one bomb for every resident at the time, and that only two modern buildings in the capital were left standing. All told, the U.S. dropped 635,000 tons of bombs on Korea during the war, most of it in the North, including with 32,500 tons of napalm.

Twelve to 15 percent of the North’s population was killed in the war.

Charles Armstrong, a historian at Columbia University, said the expansion of saturation bombing in North Korea marked something of a turning point for the United States and was followed by the use of an

even heavier version during the Vietnam War.

“To this day, the North Korean government and media point to the American bombing as a war crime and a major justification for the continued mobilization of the North Korean people—as well as the development of nuclear weapons—in defense against future attacks,” he said.

Armstrong noted that the Hamhung area and the nearby port of Hungnam were hit particularly hard by U.S. bombers because they were an industrial center and home to the largest nitrogen fertilizer plant in Asia.

Nitrogen fertilizer can be used to make explosives, so the U.S. Air Force obliterated the area in late December 1950. Later rebuilt, the fertilizer plant is still functioning today and remains one of Hamhung’s most famous landmarks.

The bomb squads respond to calls when ordnance is discovered, check construction sites before excavation work begins and educate people, especially school children, about the dangers. Jong’s squad, which covers South Hamgyong province, has nine members. The largest, in Kangwon along the South Korean border, has 15.

East Timor’s main parties able to form govt but lose ground

DILI, East Timor (AP)—East Timor’s two main political parties won enough votes in a weekend parliamentary election to form another national unity government but lost ground to opposition forces in a sign of frustration with slow economic progress.

With all votes counted on Monday, the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction party of independence hero Xanana Gusmao, or CNRT, had won 29.5 percent, down from 36.7 percent in 2012, when it was the top-polling party. Fretilin, or Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, captured 29.7 percent of the vote.

Fretilin declared itself the victor on Sunday and to loud applause and cheers of “Viva Fretilin” its secretary-general Mari Alkatiri said it is open to forming a coalition with CNRT.

The vote Saturday was East Timor’s first parliamentary election without U.N. supervision since peacekeepers left in 2012.

The former Portuguese colony voted overwhelmingly for independence in 1999 after 24 years of brutal Indonesian occupation. Indonesia’s military and pro-Indonesian militias responded to the independence referendum with

scorched earth attacks that devastated the East Timorese half of the island of Timor.

In recent years, leaders have focused on big-ticket infrastructure projects to develop the economy, funding them from a dwindling fund of former oil riches, but progress is slow. Today, the country of 1.3 million people still faces poverty, with many lacking clean water and sanitation. Unemployment is high and young people are increasingly going overseas for work.

The Popular Liberation Party, a new political force led by former President Taur Matan Ruak, and the Democratic Party each scooped up about 10 percent of the votes. A new youth party, Khunto, got about 6 percent of the vote, which would give it 5 seats in the 65-member parliament.

Nearly two dozen parties contested the election, in which they must win more than 4 percent of the vote to get seats in parliament. Results will be official once certified by the country’s Court of Appeal, likely later this week.

In the first few years after the independence, Fretilin, whose paramilitary arm had waged guerrilla warfare against Indonesia’s occupation, was popular enough to form a government alone.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Abe denies abusing influence in Japan favoritism scandal

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has denied he misused his influence to help a friend in a growing favoritism scandal. With support ratings for his scandal-laden Cabinet hitting new lows, Abe was questioned in Parliament on Monday over allegations he intervened to help his friend gain approval to open a new veterinary school in western Japan. Abe said he only sought reforms for the sector and did not directly get involved in the decision on his friend’s application. He said he learned of his friend Kotaro Kake’s plans only after the application was filed this year. Abe is expected to reshuffle his cabinet soon after seeing public approval sink following

various scandals and his ruling Liberal Democrats’ railroad-ing of unpopular legislation.

China: India must pull back its troops amid border standoff

BEIJING (AP)—China is warning India not to underestimate its determination to safeguard what it considers sovereign territory amid an ongoing standoff between the two neighbors over a contested region high in the Himalayas. Defense ministry spokesman Wu Qian said Monday that China continues to demand Indian troops pull back from the Doklam Plateau, an area also claimed by Indian ally Bhutan where Chinese teams had been building a road toward India’s border. Wu said China’s determination to defend its territory

was “unshakable,” adding it is “easier to shake a mountain than to shake the People’s Liberation Army.” India has called for both sides to withdraw forces and negotiate. New Delhi sent troops across the border last month after Chinese troops began working to extend southward the road from Yadong in Tibet.

Indonesian leader: Shoot drug traffickers who resist arrest

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo says police should shoot drug traffickers who resist arrest because of a narcotics crisis facing the country. Presidential spokesman Johan Budi said Sunday that Jokowi made the comments at a recent meeting of an Indonesian political

party. “We have to take firm action. If drug dealers who operate in Indonesia fight back when arrested, officers can shoot them, because we are in a narcotics emergency position now,” Jokowi said, according to his spokesman. Local media reported last week that police shot dead a Taiwanese man for resisting arrest during a seizure of 1 ton of crystal methamphetamine, Indonesia’s largest-ever seizure of the drug. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte launched an anti-drug crusade last year in which thousands of alleged drug dealers and users have been killed, often in circumstances akin to lawless summary executions. The crack-down has been condemned by rights groups and governments around the world.

World

South Sudan sexual violence on 'massive scale,' report says

Wau, South Sudan (AP)—It's been five months since the shy, frail 13-year-old was snatched from his bed, drugged and raped in the middle of the night. The boy hasn't been able to say much since.

"I don't remember a lot," Batista says, darting his eyes toward the dirt floor as he sits in a makeshift clinic in one of South Sudan's displaced people's camps in the town of Wau. The Associated Press is using only the boy's first name to protect his identity.

Four years into South Sudan's devastating civil war, the world's youngest nation is reeling from sexual violence on a "massive scale," a new Amnesty International report says. Thousands of women, children and some men are suffering in silence, grappling with mental distress. Some now have HIV. Others were rendered impotent.

The report is based on interviews with 168 victims of sexual violence in South Sudan and in refugee camps in neighboring Uganda, home to the world's fastest-growing refugee crisis.

Some of the sexual assaults occur not during the fighting but among the millions of people sheltering from the conflict.



In this Saturday, June 3, 2017 file photo, South Sudanese refugee women who suffered sexual or other gender-based violence play a board game at a women's center focusing on such violence, run by the aid group International Rescue Committee, in Bidi Bidi, Uganda.

Batista says he was raped in December by a 45-year-old man he'd seen around the United Nations-run camp. Yet the boy didn't seek psychosocial support until May. Community members say he has kept to himself and is in dire

need of help.

The U.N. last year reported a 60 percent increase in gender-based violence in South Sudan, with 70 percent of women in U.N. camps in the capital, Juba, having been raped since the start of the civil

war in December 2013.

"This is premeditated sexual violence. Women have been gang-raped, sexually assaulted with sticks and mutilated with knives," says Muthoni Wanyeki, Amnesty's regional director for East Africa. Victims are left with "debilitating and life-changing consequences," and many have been shunned by their families.

The new report interviewed 16 male victims, some who said they had been castrated or had their testicles pierced with needles.

"Some of the attacks appear

designed to terrorize, degrade and shame the victims, and in some cases to stop men from rival political groups from procreating," Wanyeki says.

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and others say both government and opposition forces use rape as a weapon of war—a strategy made worse because of the country's culture of stigma.

"If a survivor is left unsupported or untreated, he or she may develop more serious mental health problems," says Aladin Borja, coordinator for

the national mental health and psychosocial support group for the International Organization for Migration.

Survivors are discouraged from speaking openly about rape, Borja says, meaning attacks could continue with impunity.

Amnesty International says many victims are targeted because of their ethnicity.

"They hide in the bush and jump out at you and rape you on the road," says Bakhit Mario, who also shelters in the U.N. camp in Wau. The 22-year-old is part of the Fertit people, a name for several minority ethnic groups from the north.

She says friends and family have been raped by men who are Dinka, one of South Sudan's largest ethnic groups and the one of President Salva Kiir.

"I see aborted babies in the camp's bathrooms," Mario says. She believes many are a result of unwanted pregnancies due to rape.

South Sudan's government has condemned sexual assaults, promising that "the government is moving swiftly to protect civilians from such behavior by educating all armed forces and holding perpetrators accountable," acting government spokesman Choul Laam told the AP.

But victims who have reported their attackers to authorities say they've seen little justice.

After Batista was raped he told local police, who arrested the perpetrator—only to set the man free a few days later.

Divided UK, inconclusive election could put brakes on Brexit

LONDON (AP)—Lucy Harris thinks Britain's decision to leave the European Union is a dream come true. Nick Hopkinson thinks it's a nightmare.

The two Britons—a "leave" supporter and a "remainer"—represent the great divide in a country that stepped into the unknown just over a year ago, when British voters decided by 52 percent to 48 percent to end more than four decades of EU membership.

They are also as uncertain as the rest of the country about what Brexit will look like, and even when it will happen. Since the shock referendum result, work on negotiating the divorce from the EU has slowed to a crawl as the scale and complexity of the challenge becomes clearer.

Harris, founder of the pro-Brexit group Leavers of London, says she is hopeful, rather than confident, that Britain will really cut its ties with the EU.

"If we haven't finalized it, then anything's still up for grabs," she said. "Everything is still to play for."

She's not the only Brexiteer, as those who support leaving the EU are called, to be concerned. After an election last month clipped the wings of

Britain's Conservative government, remainers are gaining in confidence.

"Since the general election I've been more optimistic that at least we're headed toward soft Brexit, and hopefully we can reverse Brexit altogether," said Hopkinson, chairman of pro-EU group London4Europe. "Obviously the government is toughing it out, showing a brave face. But I think its brittle attitude toward Brexit will break and snap."

Many on both sides of the divide had assumed the picture would be clearer by now. But the road to Brexit has not run smoothly.

First the British government lost a Supreme Court battle over whether a vote in Parliament was needed to begin the Brexit process. Once the vote was held, and won, Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government officially triggered the two-year countdown to exit, starting a race to untangle four decades of intertwined laws and regulations by March 2019.

Then, May called an early election in a bid to strengthen her hand in EU negotiations. Instead, voters stripped May's Conservatives of their parlia-

mentary majority, severely denting May's authority—and her ability to hold together a party split between its pro- and anti-EU wings.

Since the June 8 election, government ministers have been at war, providing the media with a string of disparaging, anonymously sourced stories about one another. Much of the sniping has targeted Treasury chief Philip Hammond, the most senior minister in favor of a compromise "soft Brexit" to cushion the economic shock of leaving the bloc.

The result is a disunited British government and an increasingly impatient EU.

EU officials have slammed British proposals so far as vague and inadequate. The first substantive round of divorce talks in Brussels last week failed to produce a breakthrough, as the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, said Britain must clarify its positions in key areas.

Barnier said "fundamental" differences remain on one of the biggest issues—the status of 3 million EU citizens living in Britain and 1 million U.K. nationals who reside in other European countries.

Cuba's public face of diplomacy with US leaving post

HAVANA (AP)—The public face of Cuba's diplomatic opening with the United States is leaving her post to become ambassador to Canada, officials said Sunday.

Josefina Vidal was sworn in to her new role at a ceremony presided over by President Raul Castro, according to Cuban media. Officials said Vidal's deputy Gustavo Machin would also leave the division of U.S. affairs to become ambassador to Spain.

In a government renowned for its opacity, Vidal and Machin were given unusual rein to talk publicly about Cuba's relations with Washington. They offered regular briefings to journalists about the state of diplomatic ties, which were re-established two years ago. Under their watch, the Cuban government often spoke more openly than the

U.S. administration about the state of bilateral relations.

Vidal took the reins of the U.S. affairs division in 2006, helped negotiate the reestablishment of diplomatic relations and stayed through the announcement of President Donald Trump's new Cuba policy last month. The Cuban government appears to have decided to bring in new faces to deal with the Trump administration, although it did not immediately say who would take their places.

Trump retained most elements of the Obama policy, although he will re-impose limits on individual Americans' ability to travel to Cuba.

Vidal's counterpart in many aspects of the negotiations was the top U.S. diplomat in Havana, Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis, who left his post this month to return to the

United States.

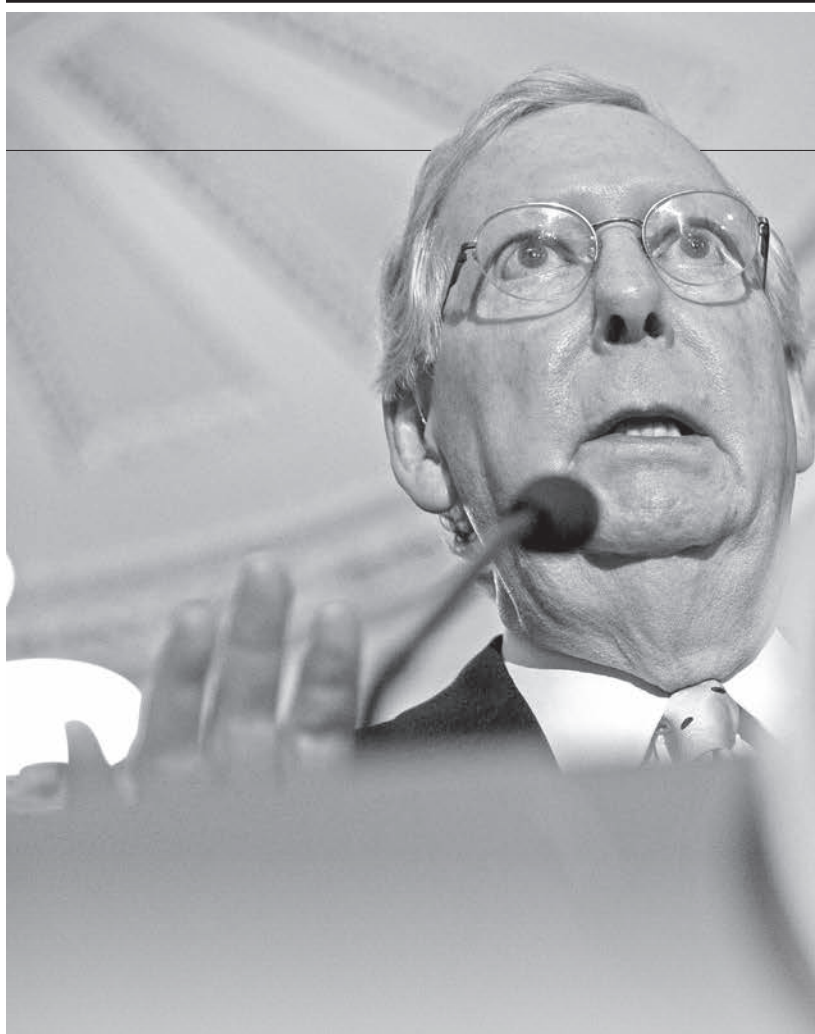
Canada and Spain are both vital economic partners for Cuba and the embassies there are two of the country's most important diplomatic outposts.

A high-ranking Communist Party official, Vidal studied in Moscow and speaks French and Russian in addition to fluent English, according to her official biography. Machin's father, an aide to revolutionary founder Ernesto "Che" Guevara, died fighting government forces in Bolivia in 1967.

Machin and Vidal both served at the Cuban Interests Section in Washington before they were expelled in 2003 along with roughly a dozen other Cuban officials amid accusations of involvement in espionage. Vidal was not directly expelled but left along with her husband, who was declared persona non grata.

Focus

5 reasons why health care bill would fail, 3 why it may not



AP
In this July 18, 2017 photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. There are many reasons why the Senate will probably reject Republicans' crowning bill razing much of "Obamacare." There are fewer why Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell might revive it and avert a GOP humiliation.

By ALAN FRAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—There are many reasons why the Senate will probably reject Republicans' crowning bill razing much of former President Barack Obama's health care law. There are fewer why Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell might revive it and avert a GOP humiliation.

Leaders say the Senate will vote Tuesday on their health care legislation. They've postponed votes twice because too many Republicans were poised to vote no. That could happen again.

The latest bill by McConnell, R-Ky.—and it could change anew—would end penalties Democrat Obama's health care law slapped on people without insurance, and on larger companies not offering coverage to workers. It would erase requirements that insurers cover specified medical services, cut the Medicaid health insurance program for the poor and shrink subsidies for many consumers.

IT FAILS: AWFUL POLL NUMBERS

In an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll this month, 51 percent supported Obama's

statute while just 22 percent backed GOP legislation.

Perhaps more ominously for Republicans, the AP-NORC poll found that by a 25-percentage-point margin, most think it's the federal government's responsibility to ensure all Americans have coverage. That's a growing view - there was just a 5-percentage-point gap in March. It underscores a harsh reality for the GOP: It's hard to strip benefits from voters.

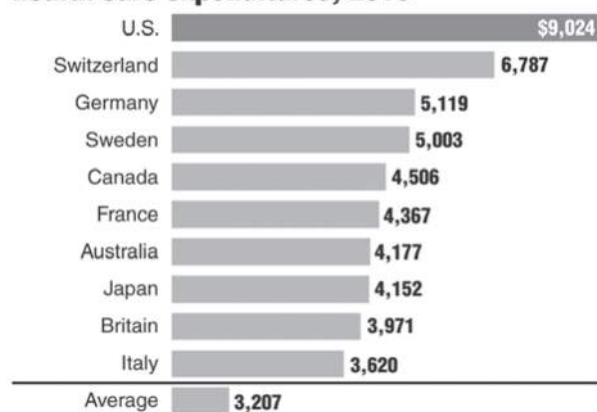
AWFUL CBO NUMBERS

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says under McConnell's plan, 22 million more people would be uninsured by 2026, mostly Medicaid recipients and people buying private policies. For single people, the typical deductible—out-of-pocket expenses before insurance defrays costs—would balloon that year to \$13,000, up from \$5,000 under Obama's law.

Note to the entire House and one-third of the Senate, which face re-election in 2018: 15 million would become uninsured next year. And though CBO says average premiums should fall in 2020, they'll head up in 2018 and 2019.

Oh, yes. The bill would let insurers charge people approaching retirement age higher prices than they can now, boosting premiums "for most older people," CBO says.

Countries with largest per capita health care expenditures, 2015



Graphic: Los Angeles Times/TNS
Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

Older people like to vote.

AWFUL SENATE NUMBERS

With a 52-48 GOP majority, the bill would survive if no more than two Republicans oppose it. With the indefinite absence of the cancer-stricken Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., McConnell's margin of error shrinks to one.

At least a dozen senators have expressed opposition to the legislation or been non-committal. Lawmakers and aides say others haven't publicly surfaced.

Moderate senators from states with vast Medicaid populations want to protect those voters. Conservatives consider it their mission to eliminate the law they've campaigned on abolishing for years. These aren't easily resolved disputes.

PRESIDENTIAL DRAG

President Donald Trump wants "Obamacare" repealed.

He also has public approval ratings below 40 percent - Bad! - and a propensity for turning on people.

Just ask House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

After Ryan labored for months before the House approved its health care bill and earned a Rose Garden celebration, Trump called the measure "mean." Trump said he wouldn't have picked Sessions for his job had he known he'd recuse himself from investigations into Russian meddling in last year's campaign.

Some lawmakers might not be blamed for declining to carry Trump's water.

Trump expressed frustration with Republicans Sunday on

Twitter. He said: "It's very sad that Republicans, even some that were carried over the line on my back, do very little to protect their President."

While he didn't directly say why he was upset with GOP lawmakers, Trump's tweet came as lawmakers are struggling to reach agreement on health care.

LEMONS INTO LEMONADE

The bill's rejection would still let lawmakers cast votes showing their positions. Supporters could say they honored their repeal "Obamacare" pledges, foes could say they protected their states or adhered to conservative principles.

Defeat would let the Senate refocus on tax cuts or other initiatives, though it's unclear what major issues don't divide Republicans.

A loss means there won't be a GOP law voters might blame for health care problems they encounter. Though Republicans may already own the issue in the public's eye, since they run the government.

IT PASSES: THE UNTHINKABLE

This isn't happening, right? Republicans have run on repealing "Obamacare" for years.

The administration won't let the effort fail without a fight.

Trump lunched with senators at the White House last

week and tweeted that Republicans "MUST keep their promise to America!"

On Friday, Vice President Mike Pence urged leaders of conservative, anti-abortion and business groups to pressure senators. Medicaid administrator Seema Verma has tried luring senators unhappy with Medicaid cuts, including Ohio's Rob Portman and West Virginia's Shelley Moore Capito, with more flexibility for governors to use Medicaid funds to help pay expenses for beneficiaries shifting to private insurance.

MCCONNELL

The health bill's floundering has tarnished McConnell's reputation as a legislative mastermind. Many Republicans privately say if the votes were gettable, he'd have gotten them already.

But the 33-year Senate veteran is wily and doesn't want his record stained with this failure. He understands what GOP senators need and has time, and if anyone can rescue the legislation, it's him.

TRUMP FACTOR

GOP senators cross Trump at their own peril. Eight in 10 Republicans still rate him favorably. In the 2018 mid-term elections, when turnout is traditionally down, those loyal voters could make a difference.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: 2017 Mazda CX-5: Boring is beautiful

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Please don't hate me for saying so, but the Mazda CX-5 is one of the duller cars on the road.

In terms of styling, performance and technology, it's just ... plain. No fireworks. No fanfare. No drama.

No one is going to slide up to you at a red light and say, "Hey, man, is that the new CX-5?" No one is going to stop you in the parking lot at and say, "Wow. Is that yours?" If you go somewhere nice to eat, the valet guys won't park it out front with the hot cars.

That's not necessarily a bad thing. Boring isn't bad. No drama can mean no problems.

Though there may not be any reason to fall calamitously in love with this car, there's also nothing not to like about it. The CX-5 works.

The 2017 CX-5, a second iteration of the successful SUV, is all new, Mazda says, and not just a simple makeover.

On sale since March, it features a re-engineered and redesigned chassis, body, interior and exterior, and now comes with some fancy upgrades. Upper trim level vehicles can be had with a heated steering wheel, power liftgate, reclining rear seats and heated front and rear seats, a relative rarity in affordable vehicles.

Upper trim levels also come with helpful safety technology, like lane departure warning, blind spot monitoring and more sophisticated braking assist features.

(They're part of the reason the Institute for Highway

Safety gave the 2017 CX-5 its highest "Top Safety Pick+" rating.)

The Grand touring vehicle, with the premium options package, also includes a very good adaptive cruise control system — Mazda calls it "Radar Cruise Control" — and a head-up display that includes traffic sign recognition.

A rear-view camera is standard on all models, as is the head-up display without traffic sign recognition.

It's fun — and easy — to drive. Around town, the 2.5-liter engine, which makes 187 horsepower and 185 pound feet of torque and is the same power plant found in the Mazda6 sedan, made the CX-5 scoot with confidence.

The front-wheel-drive system was nice and grabby — the car is also available in an all-wheel-drive configuration — and had a nice, planted feel.

The short wheel base and great visibility made it easy to park. The seats felt comfortable, and everything in the driver cockpit was sensibly placed and easy

to reach.

On the freeway, though, I experienced more tire noise than I like, while the car tracked confidently and held its own in fast-moving traffic.

I didn't do any long-distance driving, but the 60-cubic-foot storage capacity made me wish I was headed out of town. The back seats fold flat with the push of a button to create room for the mountain bike, cooler, tent and sleeping bag. Camping, anyone?

The upgrades and the refreshed design seem to be working.

Mazda reported recently that 57,077 CX-5s had been sold in North America this year through the end of June — up 10 percent over the same six-month period last year. That puts this SUV well ahead of the roughly 39,834 CX-3s sold during that time, and makes the CX-5 the company's best-selling vehicle.

Those numbers aren't massive when measured against comparable compact SUVs. Honda sold 187,256 CR-Vs during the same period, while Toyota sold 184,766 RAV4s.

But they're important to Mazda. The company's North American year-to-date car sales, at the end of June, were off almost 20 percent. But year-to-date SUV sales, led by the CX-5, were up 18.5 percent.

The CX-5, like all of Mazda's vehicles, is priced to move. An entry-level model can be had for as little as \$24,985. The Grand Touring trim level starts at \$30,335, and the one I drove cost

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Mazda CX-5 Grand Touring FWD

- Quick take: A bland but well-built practical car
- Highs: Long on price and value
- Lows: Short on looks and styling
- Vehicle type: Four-door, five-passenger SUV
- Base price: \$30,335

- Price as tested: \$32,785
- Powertrain: 2.5-liter, 4-cylinder, gasoline engine
- Transmission: 6-speed automatic
- Horsepower: 187
- Torque: 185 pound feet
- EPA fuel economy rating: 24 miles per gallon city / 31 highway / 27 combined

\$32,785.

The low price, and the company's current Driving Matters advertising campaign, won't be enough to lure some car shoppers who are looking for more comfort, more styl-

ing or more horsepower.

But, really, how much of that stuff does a car need? If you're not running hot laps at a racetrack or trying to win a best in show ribbon at your local car show, this is a practical and unpretentious people mover.



TNS
The 2017 Mazda CX-5.

Under the Hood:

How to perform voltage drop testing

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: The left taillight on my pickup is somewhat dimmer than the one on the right side. It's not bad enough to go through the trouble and expense of having fixed it. But it bugs me. Any chance you have some tips about making this go away? I changed the bulb a few months ago, and that didn't help.

— Eric J.

A: Your question presents a great opportunity to share a useful diagnostic method that works on all kinds of circuits: voltage drop testing.

Voltage is a lot like water pressure, and a vehicle's bulbs, motors, pumps, injectors and

other devices that perform work need a proper supply delivered to them. Your charging system and battery create and store this pressure, and the vehicle's circuits — containing fuses, wires, switches and connectors — deliver it.

Your dim taillight is like a hose-end spray nozzle that dribbles because of a pressure-robbing kinked hose or clogged-up faucet.

Before we get our hands dirty, let's see if the left brake light and other lights near the vehicle's left-rear side might also be dim — this would point to a faulty common ground, a wire likely screwed into nearby body metal.

To check delivered pressure, you'll need to access the lamp socket and perform a few easy measurements using an inexpensive multimeter and a couple of T-pins.

Let's start by inspecting the taillight connector and socket for excessive corrosion (dirty-looking grease in the socket is OK). Try wiggling the bulb in the socket to see if brightness might change. If so, that would be the problem.

Let's now look at the color of the wires leading to the various companion bulbs. You'll likely find one color (possibly black) that leads to all of the bulbs. This is the ground circuit. Another color will lead

only to the taillight, stop bulbs and side-marker light. This is the positive side of the parking light circuit.

Next, turn on the headlight switch to just the first click: parking lights on. Take a measurement across the battery and record the number. With the parking lights still on, push two T-pins into the back of the taillight socket, sliding them in right next to the wires and circuits just mentioned.

We'll use the T-pins as access points to measure voltage delivered to the bulb, with it in place and operating. A 1-volt difference is the most that's acceptable.

In your case, we might see 2 or 3 volts less at the bulb. This would indicate a circuit fault rather than a problem with the device. (Bulbs work or don't at all, unlike motors, horns and most other devices that can be kludgy even with good voltage delivered to them.)

Next, we'll take our difference meter—our voltmeter—and place the red lead to the ground T-pin and the black to some bare body metal. With the parking lights still on, you want to see less than 0.3 volts difference. A higher reading indicates a corroded or loose ground circuit connection.

Then, using a length of wire,

you can measure the difference between battery positive and the parking light positive T-pin. We'll allow up to 0.7 volts difference here because of the fuse, switch, connectors and length of circuit.

Because your right-side light is normal, we can rule out parts of the circuit that are shared (fuse, switch, some wiring). A wiring diagram with connector locations would be needed to repeat these tests at other locations. You will be looking to see where you have normal voltage and where you don't. The problem, likely a loose or corroded connector somewhere, is the culprit!

Life & Style

Comic-Con hits: 'Black Panther,' Batman, 'Stranger Things'

SAN DIEGO (AP)—From “Black Panther” to Batman, “Stranger Things” to “Blade Runner 2049,” and “Ready Player One” to Rep. John Lewis, Comic-Con had something for almost every pop-culture appetite.

As the annual fan convention in San Diego wraps Sunday after four days of panels, presentations, screenings and autograph signings, here's a look at some of the highlights.

BLACK PANTHER

The film won't be out until 2019, but “Black Panther” swiped the most attention at Marvel's presentation. Director Ryan Coogler and cast members Chadwick Boseman, Lupita Nyong'o, Andy Serkis and Danai Gurira were on hand to debut a clip from the film.

Boseman, who introduced his Black Panther character in 2016's “Captain America: Civil War,” said the new film finds him returning to his home of Wakanda after his father dies. Nyong'o described her character as a spy who goes undercover to report back to the fictional isolated nation about what is going on in the rest of the world.

Marvel's presentation also included early looks at the November release “Thor: Ragnarok” and next year's “Avengers: Infinity War.” And studio chief Kevin Feige announced that Michelle Pfeiffer was cast in the “Ant-Man” sequel “Ant-Man and the Wasp,” also due in 2018.

BATMAN

There was a lot of Batman at



Chadwick Boseman, from left, Lupita Nyong'o, and Michael B. Jordan attend the “Marvel” panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International on Saturday, July 22, 2017, in San Diego.

Comic-Con, from Ben Affleck's confirmation that he'll continue to play the character to a star-filled tribute to the original “Batman” actor, Adam West.

Affleck refuted rumors that he would no longer play the character after ceding direction of “The Batman” to “War for the Planet of the Apes” director Matt Reeves. The actor also appeared alongside some of his “Justice League” costars, including Gal Gadot (Wonder Woman), Jason Momoa (Aquaman), Ezra Miller (The Flash) and Ray Fisher

(Cyborg) as they showed footage from the film due in November.

West was celebrated by his fans and collaborators at a heartfelt tribute that featured Kevin Smith, producer James Tucker, actor Ralph Garman and “Catwoman” actress Lee Meriwether. Smith said he learned morality from West's portrayal of Batman in the original TV series, and Meriwether said she was so dazzled by the actor during the making of “Batman: The Movie” that she nearly lost track of her performance—especially

during a ballroom scene where they danced together.

“All I could think of was, ‘I'm dancing with Adam West,’ “ she said. “I probably blew one take and then I snapped out of it.”

STRANGER THINGS

The popular Netflix show took over the San Diego Convention Center's largest exhibition hall to debut a new trailer for its anticipated second season. The show, set in the early 1980s, follows a group of kids trying to figure out how their friend mysteriously disap-

peared. Along the way, they meet an unusual girl named Eleven, who has telepathic powers.

Show creators the Duffer Bros. were joined by director Shawn Levy and star Millie Bobby Brown (Eleven) and the other young actors in the ensemble: Finn Wolfhard, Gaten Matarazzo, Caleb McLaughlin and Noah Schnapp.

“Stranger Things” also had a presence in downtown San Diego with an installation that resembled the show's set and a virtual-reality experience that

brought guests into the home of the missing boy and face to face with the monster that haunts him.

BLADE RUNNER 2049

Harrison Ford joked that he was out to reboot all of his iconic roles. The actor was on hand to present footage from “Blade Runner 2049,” in which he reprises his role as Rick Deckard. Ford said he gained a deeper understanding of his character in the sequel, which hits theaters in October.

Ford appeared alongside co-star Ryan Gosling as the film's panel.

“Blade Runner 2049” also hosted a massive installation away from the San Diego Convention Center where fans could experience the Los Angeles of the future through virtual reality and replication of key sets inhabited by actors wearing actual costumes from the film.

READY PLAYER ONE

Steven Spielberg has spent more than two years adapting Ernest Cline's novel “Ready Player One” for the screen, and the filmmaker said he was proud to debut a new trailer inside Comic-Con's biggest exhibition hall.

Actor Tye Sheridan stars in the story about a dystopian future where humans take refuge in a virtual-reality world.

For Cline, having Spielberg make a movie based on his book is a full-circle moment. “I learned how to be a storyteller because of this man,” the author said.

White-bearded Texan wins Hemingway Look-Alike Contest

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — A white-bearded Texan has won the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest in Key West, where Ernest Hemingway lived during the 1930s.

Retired real estate franchise owner Richard Filip of Fayetteville, Texas, prevailed Saturday night at Sloppy Joe's Bar, a longtime Hemingway hangout.

The 71-year-old winner piloted a replica of Hemingway's fishing boat Pilar from Miami to Key West before competing and said he shares the author's fondness for fishing, hunting and boating.

Michael Groover of Savannah, Georgia, husband of Paula Deen, finished in the top five as the celebrity chef watched from the audience.



In this Saturday, July 22, 2017, photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, 2017 Hemingway Look-Alike Contest finalists, from left, Frank Kramer, Michael Groover, husband of Paula Deen, and Joe Maxey gaze at the audience at Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West, Fla.

Judged by former winners, the contest attracted 153 entrants and highlighted the annual Hemingway Days festival honoring the

author's literary legacy and vigorous Key West lifestyle. The festival ends Sunday evening with a reception at the Hemingway museum.

New York Times asks 'Fox & Friends' for apology

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Times is asking Fox News' morning show “Fox & Friends” to apologize for what the newspaper calls a “malicious and inaccurate segment” about the newspaper, intelligence leaks and the Islamic State that aired Saturday.

New York Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said Sunday that she requested an “on-air apology and tweet.” The paper, she wrote, took issue with a Fox host on the segment saying that Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi “was able to sneak away under the cover of darkness after a New York Times story” in 2015 and a host's comment that the U.S. government “would have had al-Baghdadi based on the intelligence that we had except someone leaked

information to the failing New York Times.”

The segment referred to comments by a top military official noted in a Friday Fox story. In the Fox story, Gen. Tony Thomas, the head of U.S. Special Operations Command, said his team was “close” to al-Baghdadi after a 2015 raid but the “lead went dead” after it “was leaked in a prominent national newspaper.” The Fox story connected Thomas with the Times, saying that Thomas “appeared to be referring to a New York Times report in June 2015 that detailed how American intelligence agencies had ‘extracted valuable information.’”

The FoxNews.com story was updated online Sunday with a Times statement. “Fox & Friends” will “provide an

updated story to viewers tomorrow morning based on the FoxNews.com report,” the company said in a statement emailed by Fox spokeswoman Caley Cronin Sunday.

The Times wrote a story Sunday saying President Donald Trump was wrong when he tweeted Saturday morning that the “failing” New York Times “foiled” a government attempt to kill al-Baghdadi, apparently a reaction to Fox's story. The Times also pushed back against Fox's story, noting that the Pentagon issued a news release more than three weeks before the Times article that could have tipped off al-Baghdadi. The paper also said the Pentagon “raised no objections” with it before the 2015 article on the intelligence gleaned from the raid was published.

Victory for 'Dunkirk' and 'Girls Trip' at the box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's victory for "Dunkirk" and "Girls Trip" at the box office this weekend. Both original and well-reviewed films smashed expectations and enticed diverse audiences to the theaters, even though cumulatively summer remains down from last year.

Christopher Nolan's World War II epic brought in an estimated \$50.5 million to easily top the charts, according to Warner Bros., while the raucous comedy "Girls Trip" broke the R-rated comedy slump of 2017 with \$30.4 million to take second place.

"Dunkirk" was far from an inevitable summer success. But stellar reviews, awards buzz and hype around the film's large-scale production helped drive people to the theater and large-format screens.

"We're beyond thrilled with this exceptional achievement for 'Dunkirk,'" said Jeff Goldstein, who heads distribution for Warner Bros. "The critical reception worldwide has been consistently effusive. It really propelled this movie that wasn't an obvious win."

Audiences were 60 percent male and 76 percent over the age of 25 for the PG-13 rated film, while IMAX audiences represented 23 percent of the market

share (or \$11.7 million of the total grosses from only 402 screens).

"It became a must-see event," said Paul Dergarabedian, a senior media analyst for comScore.

Drawing quite a different audience was the buddy comedy "Girls Trip," starring Regina Hall, Tiffany Haddish, Jada Pinkett Smith and Queen Latifah as a group of girlfriends who head to New Orleans for a weekend of fun. The Universal film drew in an audience that was 79 percent female and 50 percent under the age of 30. Fifty-nine percent of attendees were estimated to be African-American.

Notably, audiences gave the film a stellar A+ CinemaScore, suggesting the film will have long-term playability.

"'Girls Trip' was a perfectly counter-programmed box office surprise," Dergarabedian said. "It broke the R-rated comedy curse that has afflicted this summer with 'Baywatch,' 'Snatched,' 'Rough Night' and 'The House.'"

For Universal, the formula is more simple: "Girls Trip," unlike the aforementioned comedies, is resonating with audiences.

"When the taste for entertainment and comedy has been somewhat underserved, it is not because people aren't interested in laughing,

1. "Dunkirk," \$50.5 million (\$55.4 million international).
2. "Girls Trip," \$30.4 million.
3. "Spider-Man: Homecoming," \$22 million (\$33.2 million international).
4. "War for the Planet of the Apes," \$20.4 million (\$17.3 million international).
5. "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets," \$17 million (\$3.9 million international).
6. "Despicable Me 3," \$12.7 million (\$47.5 million international).
7. "Baby Driver," \$6 million (\$8.3 million international).
8. "The Big Sick," \$5 million.
9. "Wonder Woman," \$4.6 million (\$1.8 million international).
10. "Wish Upon," \$2.5 million (\$1.1 million international).

it's that they're waiting for something funny to come along," said Nick Carpou, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "One of the great things about this comedy is that it's really funny."

Not so successful was Luc Besson's nearly \$180 million sci-fi epic "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets," which earned \$17 million from North American theaters over the weekend for a fifth-place start. It came in behind

"Spider-Man: Homecoming," in third in its third weekend with \$22 million and "War for the Planet of the Apes" in fourth place in its second weekend with \$20.4 million.

Besson's film, starring Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne and based on the French comic "Valerian and Laureline," was produced by EuropaCorp. STX Entertainment distributed it in North America.

The film's financial exposure was limited, however. EuropaCorp says 90 percent of the budget was already covered by foreign pre-sales, equity financing and tax subsidies.

Dergarabedian said it's more about the international returns for "Valerian," but it's hard not to see Besson's return to sci-fi as a disappointment. Not adjusted for inflation, "Valerian" earned basically the same as "The Fifth Element," which came out 20 years ago. For comparison, his film "Lucy," starring Scarlett Johansson, opened to \$43.8 million in 2014.

Overall, the year remains around flat from last year, and the summer season looks unlikely to make up for its deficit through the end of July and August.

Still, Dergarabedian thinks there is a silver lining in the quality of the films that have come out this summer.

"Despite the weekend being down close to 10 percent, the currency that was most valuable is the currency of goodwill," Dergarabedian said. "Nobody can say that Hollywood threw the same old stuff at the wall this weekend."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Creators, cast of 'Stranger Things' debut season 2 trailer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The creators of "Stranger Things" premiered a trailer for the show's second season at Comic-Con on Saturday that was so new, even the cast hadn't seen it.

The Duffer Bros. were joined by director Shawn Levy and stars Millie Bobby Brown, Matthew Modine and the crew of young actors who play a group of friends searching for their buddy who mysteriously disappears. The trailer shows that Will Byers, who went missing in the first season, continues to be haunted by the experience.

"Will shows more bravery and you'll definitely learn how the Upside Down affected Will and you'll get more into his story line," said Noah Schnapp, the 12-year-old actor who plays Will.

The Upside Down is an alternate dimension where Will spent time during his disappearance. It's similar to the characters' everyday world in the fictional town of Hawkins, Indiana, except more creepy, rendered in grayscale and inhabited by a multi-limbed monster.

Three new cast members were introduced who are joining the second season of the show: Paul Reiser portrays a government official, 15-year-old Sadie Sink plays a character named Max who joins the group of young boys, and Dacre Montgomery takes on a character he described as "a human antagonist."

"I hope I can be scary enough," the actor said.

Thirteen-year-old Brown, who plays the scene-stealing Eleven, shared how challenging it is to play a character who speaks so little.

"It was difficult because obviously I had very few lines and I had to express everything with my face," the actress said. "But it gets easier when you feel more comfortable with your character... It's hard to keep a straight face with, you know, teen boys because they play pranks and they tell a lot of jokes when I'm doing an emotional scene."

The camaraderie among the cast was clear as they watched the trailer for the new season. They craned their necks to see the giant screen from their position on the dais, then hugged afterward.

The sci-fi series is set to return to Netflix on Oct. 31.

'Teen Wolf' cast makes special appearance for Make-A-Wish

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The stars of "Teen Wolf" made a special appearance at Comic-Con Friday for an audience of one.

Nine members of the MTV show's cast sat down for a meet-and-greet with 16-year-old super fan Sydney Lang, who came to Comic-Con with her family thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Sydney's parents, Kevin and Gwen, said it was their first family vacation together so far from home. The couple owns a small business that they closed for the first time in 26 years to come to the pop-culture convention with their daughter, who has Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Soft-spoken Sydney beamed and blushed as she walked into a room where Tyler Posey, Colton Haynes and other stars were chanting her name.

The teenager's wish was to come to Comic-Con and attend the "Teen Wolf" panel, which she did on Thursday. Friday's meeting with the cast was a special surprise.

She sat at a table with Posey, Haynes, Linden Ashby, Shelley Hennig, Khylin Rhambo, Dylan Sprayberry, Charlie Carver, Cody Christian and Melissa Ponzio. They chatted with Sydney about her favorite characters and episodes and asked her about her life back home in Edmonton, Ontario, Canada. Hennig playfully inquired whether Sydney had any personal connections to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and might make an introduction.

Afterward, Hennig said she was grateful for the chance to meet Sydney.

"It puts everything in perspective,"



Sydney Lang, 16, of Edmonton, Alberta, seated center, poses with cast members from "Teen Wolf" during a meet-and-greet arranged by the Make-A-Wish Foundation on day two of Comic-Con International on Friday, July 21, 2017, in San Diego. Pictured from front row left, Colton Haynes, Shelley Hennig, Charlie Carver, Tyler Posey and Khylin Rhambo, and from back row left are Cody Christian, Linden Ashby, Melissa Ponzio, and Dylan Sprayberry. AP

the actress said.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation brought 14 young people and their families to Comic-Con this year, curating special experiences for each. The organization says the emotional lift kids and their families get from their Wish experience often aids in healing by providing a renewed sense of hope.

Besides the Lang family's "Teen Wolf" experience, they planned to attend panels for such shows as "The Big Bang Theory" and "Doctor Who." They spent time on the convention center floor, where Sydney added to her collection of Pop! figurines. The family also zipped over to the nearby San Diego Zoo, which Sydney's younger brother, Ethan,

was particularly excited about.

Dad Kevin Lang said they've been on the move morning to night and having a blast.

"They exceeded our expectations in the first half of the first day," Lang said of the Make-A-Wish crew.

Sydney, meanwhile, was speechless. Her face-spanning smile said it all.

Wonder Woman sequel gets a title: 'Wonder Woman II'

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Wonder Woman has a few reasons to celebrate.

As of Sunday, the superhero pic is now the highest-grossing film of the summer with \$398 million from North American theaters, and the sequel is official. Warner Bros.

is not saying much about the inevitable follow-up to the smash hit, but the studio did flash a title card with the words "Wonder Woman II" during its Comic-Con presentation Saturday.

But that was the extent of the "Wonder Woman II" talk

at the fan convention. There is no official word on whether or not Patty Jenkins will return to direct, who is penning the script or even when the film might hit theaters.

Not even Gal Gadot mentioned it during the Comic-Con "Justice League" panel.



AP
Gal Gadot attends the Warner Bros. "Justice League" panel on day three of Comic-Con International on Saturday, July 22, 2017, in San Diego.

Marvel TV shows 1st episode of 'The Defenders' at Comic-Con



AP
Sigourney Weaver, from left, Elodie Yung, Deborah Ann Woll, and Jessica Henwick applaud on stage at the "Marvel's The Defenders" panel on day two of Comic-Con International on Friday, July 21, 2017, in San Diego, Calif.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The head of Marvel Television surprised fans at Comic-Con Friday by showing the entire first episode of the new Netflix series "The Defenders."

The show that unites superheroes Jessica Jones, Luke Cage, Daredevil and Iron Fist

premieres next month. Sigourney Weaver plays the villain.

Weaver and the rest of the cast, including Krysten Ritter, Mike Colter, Charlie Cox and Finn Jones, appeared during the presentation inside the San Diego Convention Center's largest exhibit hall.

Marvel Television's Jeph Loeb got a surprise himself: He received the Comic-Con Inkpot Award just as he was beginning the presentation. Comic-Con's programming director Eddie Ibrahim choked up as he presented Loeb with the award, saying his work in comics and television inspired his career path. The award recognizes achievements in sci-fi, fantasy and comics.

More than 90 hospitalized during Chance the Rapper show

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — More than 90 people were hospitalized during a concert Friday night featuring Chance the Rapper in Connecticut, authorities said.

Many were taken to hospitals for excessive drinking.

Hartford Deputy Chief Brian Foley said Saturday that officers made 50 underage drinking referrals at Hot 93.7's Hot Jam concert at Xfinity Theatre. Most of those charged were issued a summons to appear in

court. Several other arrests were made throughout the evening.

The crowd was apparently made up of people in their late teens and early 20s, Foley said. Tailgating, partying and excessive alcohol consumption was "extremely prevalent."

Foley said a large number of people hospitalized were underage attendees experiencing "severe intoxication."

Hartford Fire Capt. Raul Ortiz told The Hartford Cou-

rant there were so many patients that some had to be taken to hospitals outside Hartford for treatment.

One 19-year-old had a blood-alcohol content of nearly 0.5— eight times the legal limit for driving. John Brancato, assistant director of the pediatric emergency department at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford, told the newspaper the young man was admitted to the intensive care unit for close monitoring.

'Star Wars' fan clubs honor Carrie Fisher at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Four "Star Wars" costuming clubs held a tribute to their favorite fallen princess at Comic-Con.

The fan groups celebrated the life and work of Carrie Fisher as Princess Leia at the pop-culture convention in San Diego on Sunday.

Several women dressed in

Leia's flowing white gown and iconic twin buns spoke about how much the character inspired them. One said she walked down the aisle at her wedding to Leia's theme. Another said, "You put on a pair of buns, and you're unstoppable."

The presentation included an

exhibit of fan art created after Fisher's death last year.

The fans also celebrated the life of Kenny Baker, the actor who played R2-D2, who also died last year. Members of the R2 Builders Club honored him by bringing out four replica droids they built.

Man indicted in scheme to sell paintings from art heist

BOSTON (AP) — A Boston federal jury has indicted a West Virginia man on charges he tried to sell paintings he did not have access to and falsely claimed were stolen in the largest art heist in U.S. history.

Prosecutors allege that 47-year-old Todd Desper, of Beckley, West Virginia, solic-

ited buyers on Craigslist for two paintings he claimed were among 13 stolen from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990.

Authorities say they determined Desper had no access to the paintings and was engaged in a multimillion dollar fraud scheme targeting foreign art

buyers.

The FBI has said two suspects who masqueraded as police officers to rob the museum of \$500 million worth masterpieces are deceased.

Desper was indicted Thursday on wire fraud charges. His attorney couldn't immediately be reached on Saturday.

Mixed messages from mom have teen looking for clarity

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17. My mom and I often disagree on things. Don't get me wrong—I don't care what she does in her free time, but lately I have learned she's talking to people about bisexuality. I don't know how to handle this or how to talk to her about it.

I feel betrayed. When I told her I was gay, she rejected my sexuality, and now she's possibly wanting relationships with other females? Even now, when we watch the news and something about the LGBT community comes on, she still mutters about marriage being between one man and one woman.

I don't want things to escalate into a big blowup over this because our relationship is just being repaired. Please help me. Am I wrong to be concerned, or do I have the right to be?

TEEN IN DAYTON, OHIO

DEAR TEEN: I don't think it would escalate into an argument if you were to tell your mother you are confused by the mixed messages you're getting from her. It should be the opening of an interesting discussion, as long as you don't let it deteriorate into a fight. It seems odd to me, too, that she would reject your sexual orientation if she's leaning in both directions herself.

As to her feelings about marriage equality, you might be interested to know that not everyone thinks the idea of marriage (LGBT or otherwise) is appealing. If your mother is interested in open relationships, she may be

part of that group.

DEAR ABBY: I went on a road trip with a friend who is normally kind and generous. She insisted on driving the entire way. She often exceeded the speed limit and kept less than 20 feet between us and the 18-wheel truck ahead.

She read texts, answered her cellphone and made phone calls while she was driving. She's very demonstrative when she talks, so while she drove, holding her cell with her left hand, she'd take her other hand off the wheel to gesture. More than once she nearly hit a guardrail.

I was so frightened I broke into sobs. She responded by laughing at me! Can you give me a tactful way to tell her how dangerous her driving really is?

TERRIFIED IN MEMPHIS

DEAR TERRIFIED: No, because it's obvious that your friend is in deep denial not only about how dangerous her driving is, but also about how it affects her passengers and other drivers around her. But I can suggest that from now on, YOU provide the transportation if you're going anywhere together. You were lucky this time. The next time it could cost you your life.

DEAR ABBY: One day, I found two bottles of wine under my husband's bed. I told him I had found them and he didn't

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



have to hide wine from me. Yesterday, I found two bottles of beer in his underwear drawer.

This is unusual behavior for a 65-year-old man. He is retired. I am still working. What should I do?

PERPLEXED IN THE SOUTH

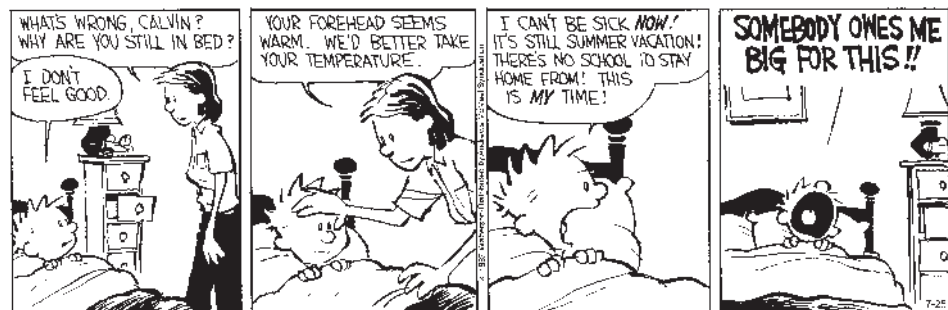
DEAR PERPLEXED: It's important that you find out what's causing your husband to act this way. Notify your doctor there has been a sudden change in his behavior and schedule physical and neurological exams for him. When seniors begin hiding items for no reason, it could indicate the onset of dementia.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Party pooper
5 Melville captain
9 Extinct bird
12 Data
13 Taboo
14 Tin Man's need
15 Umber or ocher
17 Undivided
18 Padlock fastener
19 Skating spots
21 Mini-plateaus
24 MP's quarry
25 Grad
26 Plant scholar
30 — Tin Tin
31 Lawn trimmer
32 4, on a phone
33 Coffee's "kick"
35 Karate blow
36 Temporary calm
37 Choir members

DOWN

38 New Zealand native
40 Show-room model
42 Upscale auto
43 Out-standing student
48 Nay undoer
49 Missile shelter
50 Arp's art
51 Old map letters
52 Iowa city
53 Highlander
1 Conk out

2 Genetic letters
3 Ghana's cont.
4 "Batman" setting
5 Pismires
6 Barrel part
7 Raggedy doll
8 African conflict of
9 Hold two jobs
10 Sty cry
11 Pub orders
16 Possesses
20 Charged bit

21 Artist
22 Lamb alias
23 Kansas symbol
24 Suit to
26 Seethe
27 Possess
28 "Scram!"
29 Gratuities
31 Singer Etheridge
34 Cat's coat
35 Puffy sky sights
37 Music booster
38 New corp. hires
39 Tan and Irving
40 Broad valley
41 Cupid's alias
44 Singer McGraw
45 Lobbyists' org.
46 Altar promise
47 Long. crosser

Solution time: 22 mins.

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P	R	E	Y	P	I	E	A	L	I	A

Yesterday's answer 7-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nelson Piquet Jr., 32; James Lafferty, 32; Matt LeBlanc, 50; Illeana Douglas, 52.

Happy Birthday: Use your connections to get ahead in life. Ask questions and enlist the best people to help you achieve your goals. Your commitment to self-improvement and doing your best to maintain a healthy environment at home and at work will make a difference to the way people view you. Larger quarters or a better lifestyle will be attainable. Your numbers are 9, 16, 24, 29, 35, 37, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Trusting someone else to take care of your responsibilities or business matters will be disappointing. Take matters into your own hands and do what needs to be done. Don't believe everything you hear. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Head in the direction that will bring you the most in return. Hard work coupled with concentration and the desire to finish what you start should be your goals. Emotional issues are best dealt with practically, not impulsively. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stay focused on home, family and important partnerships. Changes can be made that will make your life better. Greater stability will come in the form of making clear plans for the future. Romance is highlighted. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Avoid letting anyone coerce you into making changes that you don't want to make. You can't please everyone, so you may as well

please yourself. Delve into creative endeavors that will bring you personal satisfaction. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take charge and pursue your goals. Call the shots and make the changes that will bring you the greatest return. Personal, physical, emotional and financial gains are possible if you focus on helping yourself get ahead. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Question anything that doesn't sound accurate. Someone will pass along information that may be based on conjecture rather than facts. Refuse to let personal relationships stunt your professional growth. Show support for your partner. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A positive change will take place based on an unexpected turn of events. Make a strategic move and don't look back. Take care of your interests and everything else will fall into place. Personal gains look promising. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Use your ingenuity when dealing with emotional matters. A creative mind will help you solve problems and impress those you deal with. Don't feel pressured to follow the crowd or to give in to someone putting pressure on you. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep an open mind, but don't let your emotions take over and cloud your vision. It's important to see things just the way they are if you want to make good decisions. Use your intelligence and your willpower to get ahead. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do your best to question contracts, money and legal matters as well as any health issues that arise. Taking care of business will be necessary if you don't want to miss out on an opportunity to gain ground. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be prepared for the unexpected, but be willing to move on in whatever direction suits you best. Going with the flow will keep you moving forward with a minimal amount of stress. Remain neutral and stay out of trouble. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotions will set the stage for what transpires today. Ulterior motives are apparent, and open and honest discussions should take place before you make a decision that will influence a partnership or joint venture you want to pursue. ***

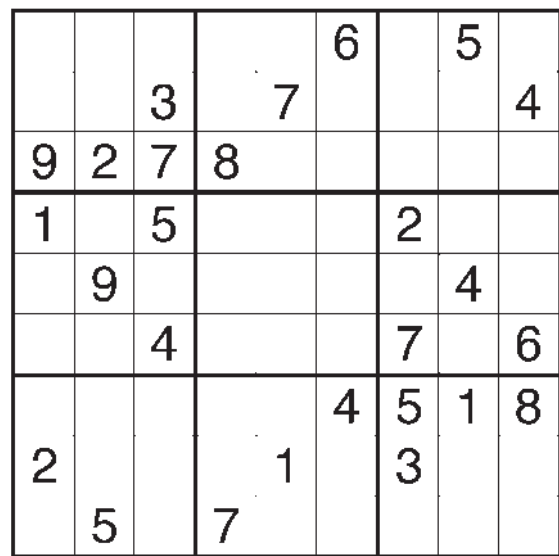
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

7-25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	1	6	2	7	3	8	4
6	8	4	9	3	1	5	7	2
7	2	3	8	5	4	9	1	6
3	4	8	2	1	6	7	5	9
2	7	9	5	4	3	1	6	8
5	1	6	7	9	8	2	4	3
1	3	7	4	8	9	6	2	5
4	6	5	3	7	2	8	9	1
8	9	2	1	6	5	4	3	7

Difficulty Level ★

7-24

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STUMPED?

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DO YOU PEREGRINATE?

Solution: 6 letters

E R O U T E Q M A R C H M E R
T G E S C U R R Y D T I E L E
A M A G E E K I H A R V M D T
I A A S G T R I P G A I S D N
V O T P S A O O L E V T F O U
E R E D N A W I L K E R T T A
D G T R A I P S E P L A C E S
E A O I Y L F V S V X P I A E
C L R V T R A V E R S E I D L
N L T E S G N I V O R L I L G
A I E D A N E M O R P R O J G
T V B B F L O A T N T R E G A
S A O R A M B L E S T T O U R
I N L N R U O J O S L I A R T
D T G T I U C R I C Y A R T S

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7/25

Circuit, Deviate, Distance, Drift, Drive, Explore, Float, Fly, Gallivant, Globetrot, Hike, Jet, Leave, Map, March, Part, Passage, Path, Pilgrim, Places, Promenade, Quest, Ramble, Roam, Route, Roving, Safari, Sail, Saunter, Scurry, Sojourn, Steps, Straggle, Stray, Stride, Stroll, Swagger, Toddle, Tour, Trail, Traipse, Travel, Traverse, Trek, Trip, Vagabond, Wander

Yesterday's Answer: Breakfast

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 50, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS



Marianas Medical Center

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority gives notice that there will be a Public Hearing. Details are below:

What: Public Hearing by the U.S. Military
When: Thursday, July 27, 2017, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Where: Tinian Junior Senior High School Cafeteria
Purpose: The Pacific Air Force (PACAF) will conduct a briefing to review the Divert initiative with a focus on the Airport Layout Plan.

The floor will be open for questions from stakeholders/attendees.
Comments/questions? Email cpa.admin@pticom.com or call (670) 237-6500 & dial 0

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Jordan's wild journey: Spieth wins British Open

SOUTHPORT, England (AP)—During one of Jordan Spieth's many low points Sunday in the British Open, his caddie reminded him of a photo from a Mexico beach holiday two weeks ago that showed him in All-Star company that included Michael Phelps and Michael Jordan.

The message: "You belong in that group."

Spieth left little doubt with a closing performance that ranks among the greatest finishes in major championship history.

Trailing for the first time all weekend at Royal Birkdale—and lucky it was only one stroke thanks to a shot from the driving range—the 23-year-old Texan followed with a birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie stretch that allowed him to close with a 1-under 69 and win the British Open by three shots over Matt Kuchar.

Spieth captured the third leg of the career Grand Slam and heads to the PGA Championship next month with a chance to be the youngest to win them all.

"This is as much of a high as I've ever experienced in my golfing life," Spieth said.

And it all started in a spot so dire it looked as though he would endure another major meltdown.

The break of the tournament—and a moment that will rate alongside Seve Ballesteros making birdie from the car park when he won at Royal Lytham & St. Annes in 1979—was when Spieth discovered the range was part of the course.

His tee shot was so far to the right on the par-4 13th hole that it sailed some 75 yards from the fairway and settled in thick grass on a dune so steep he could hardly stand up, let alone take a swing. The only smart option was to take a one-shot penalty for an unplayable lie.

And that's when Spieth showed his golfing brain is as valuable as any club in his bag.

He had the presence to ask if the driving range was out of bounds. It wasn't, which



Jordan Spieth of the United States kisses the trophy after winning the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Birkdale, Southport, England, Sunday July 23, 2017.



impressive stuff. All you can really do is sit back, tip your cap and say, 'Well done.' And it was certainly a show that he put on."

Zach Johnson, Justin Thomas and Rickie Fowler were among those who waited by the 18th to watch Spieth capture yet another major. Johnson won at St. Andrews two years ago, when Spieth missed the playoff by one shot in his bid for the calendar Grand Slam. Spieth drank wine from the jug that year, which he was told was bad luck for anyone wanting to possess the trophy one day.

"I started to believe them a bit through nine holes today," he said. "It feels good to have this in my hands."

From the driving range to the claret jug, Spieth put himself in hallowed territory just four days before his 24th birthday. Gene Sarazen in 1923 was the only other player with three majors before turning 24.

Spieth won for the third time this year, moved to No. 2 in the world and already has 11 victories on the PGA Tour.

Li Haotong of China shot a 63 and finished third at 6-under 274. He was on the practice range in case the leaders came back to him, and it was odd to see Spieth join him there as he tried to figure out how to get out of his jam.

Moments later, when he heard one massive roar after another, Spieth delivered the answer.

allowed him to go back in a straight line from the flag until he was on the range among the equipment trucks. After getting free relief from them, he still faced a blind shot over the dunes to a hole littered by pot bunkers. He hit 3-iron just short of a bunker near the green, pitched over it to about 7 feet and made what he considers the most important putt of the day to escape with bogey.

And then came the finishing kick like Phelps, the go-ahead jumper like Jordan.

Spieth hit 6-iron to the 14th that landed in front of the flag and came within inches of an ace, leading to a short birdie putt to regain the lead. On

the par-5 15th, he rolled in a 50-foot eagle putt and playfully barked at caddie Michael Greller to pick it out of the cup. "Go get that," he said, pointing to the hole.

And he wasn't done.

Spieth rolled in a 30-foot putt across the 16th green for a two-shot lead, and he kept that margin by pouring in a 7-foot putt to match birdies with Kuchar.

The final putt for par was a tap-in, as easy a shot as he had all day.

"To follow that bogey on 13 with great golf shots and great putts, and play the final five holes in 5-under par, I was just very happy for him and very impressed to watch

all that guts, determination and skill," Jack Nicklaus posted on Facebook.

Spieth and Jack Nicklaus are the only players to win three different majors at age 23.

"This is a dream come true for me," Spieth said, gazing at his name on the silver claret jug. "Absolutely a dream come true."

For so much of Sunday, it felt like a recurring nightmare.

Just 15 months ago, Spieth lost a five-shot lead on the back nine at the Masters, coming undone with a quadruple-bogey 7 on the 12th hole. It was more of a slow bleed at Royal Birkdale, with three bogeys on the opening four holes

Rose, if healthy, would be a better option than the 34-year-old Calderon.

Cleveland struggled to fill the backup role last season after allowing Matthew Dellavedova to leave as a free agent following the 2016 championship.

Rose has averaged 19.5 points and 6.0 assists since being drafted first overall by Chicago in 2008. He was a three-time All-Star during his seven seasons with the Bulls.

AP source: Cavaliers talking contract with Derrick Rose



CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cavaliers could be adding another former MVP to their roster.

Looking to close the gap on the champion Golden State Warriors, Cleveland is in contract talks with free agent guard Derrick Rose, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Thursday. Rose, whose career has been sidetracked by injuries, could

sign a one-year deal for the veteran's minimum, according to the person, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the talks.

Cleveland has salary cap issues and is limited in what it can offer Rose, who made \$21.3 million while playing in 64 games for the New York Knicks last season.

ESPN.com first reported the Cavs' pursuit of the 28-year-old Rose. Other teams, includ-

ing the Los Angeles Lakers, are interested in him.

Although Rose may not be the same player he was in 2011 when he was named the league's MVP while with the Chicago Bulls, he can still score and would be another nice compliment to LeBron James, a four-time MVP.

The Cavaliers signed free agent Jose Calderon last month as a backup to All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving.

NBA BRIEFS

AP Source: Pau Gasol agrees to 3-year deal with Spurs

A person with knowledge of the situation tells The Associated Press that Pau Gasol has agreed to terms on a three-year contract with the San Antonio Spurs. The 7-foot Spaniard and the Spurs came to agreement on Friday on a deal that is partially guaranteed for the third season. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not made an official announcement. Gasol declined the \$16 million option on his contract in June the intent of signing a longer-term deal with the Spurs. The Spurs re-signed Patty Mills and added free agents Rudy Gay and Brandon Paul. Gasol averaged 12.4 points, 7.8 rebounds and 1.1 blocks in 25.4 minutes per game for the Spurs last season. ESPN first reported the agreement. (AP)

Basketball Hall of Famer John Kundla dies at 101

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—John Kundla, the Hall of Fame coach who led the Minneapolis Lakers to five NBA championships, died Sunday. He was 101. Son Jim Kundla said his father died at an assisted living facility in Northeast Minneapolis that he has called home for years. Kundla coached George Mikan and the Lakers in the 1940s and 1950s, helping them become the NBA's first dynasty. He went 423-302 before retiring at the age of 42 and went on to coach his alma mater, the University of Minnesota. Kundla was the oldest living Hall of Famer in any of the four major sports. Kundla was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995. A year later, he was named one of the league's 10 greatest coaches as part of the league's "NBA at 50" celebration.

Dodgers lose injured Kershaw, beat Braves 5-4 in 10



LOS ANGELES (AP)—

Clayton Kershaw left after two innings with lower back tightness that is sending him to the disabled list, and the Los Angeles Dodgers overcame a blown save by Kenley Jansen to beat the Atlanta Braves 5-4 on Sunday on Logan Forsythe's bases-loaded single in the 10th.

Kershaw, unbeaten in 15 consecutive starts, came out after 21 pitches. He was headed for scans and declined to compare his current situation with last year, when he was out 2 ½ months with a herniated disk in his back.

Jansen entered with a 3-1 lead and got the final out of the eighth, then gave up a tying three-run homer to Matt Adams in the ninth.

Forsythe singled after Cody Bellinger was intentionally walked by Jim Johnson (6-2) to load the bases. Brandon Morrow (3-0) retired the side in the 10th.

Austin Barnes hit a three-run homer in the fourth for the Dodgers and Cody Bellinger hit his 27th of the season in the eighth.

Kershaw left his start against the Atlanta Braves after two innings on Sunday because of right low back tightness.

Manager Dave Roberts said Kershaw felt something on his last warm-up pitch going into the second inning.

"Just felt a little something in my back that wasn't normal," a subdued Kershaw said.

After a couple of practice pitches in front of a team trainer, Kershaw resumed facing Tyler Flowers with two outs and walked him. He struck out Matt Adams to end the inning and headed into the clubhouse.

"He couldn't get extended. The aggression wasn't there," catcher Austin Barnes said. "I saw it for a couple pitches and it was kind of messed up."

From behind the plate, Barnes could tell something wasn't right.

"It looked like something was going on in his head, it looked like something in his eyes," Barnes said. "I think it was on his mind for sure. He didn't want to hurt more."

Kershaw struck out two and walked one on 21 pitches.

The left-hander was expected to see a doctor and undergo tests later Sunday.

"It is a DL situation," Roberts said. "It will take 10 days regardless."

Nationals 6, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Stephen Strasburg left with a 5-0 lead after the second inning, when he walked the No. 8 and No. 9 batters. He is 10-3 with a

3.25 ERA.

Strasburg said his early departure was a precaution. He described the problem as slight "achiness" in his forearm. Strasburg said he wants to "nip it in the bud" so he's available to the team in the crucial stages of the late season.

Brian Goodwin's leadoff homer ignited a four-run first inning off Robbie Ray (9-5), who lasted five innings, allowing five runs.

Bryce Harper singled in the first to extend his hitting streak to 16 games. Joe Blanton (1-2) got two outs and earned the win.

Cubs 5, Cardinals 3

In Chicago, Willson Contreras hit a tiebreaking two-run homer and Jose Quintana won again as Chicago beat St. Louis to move into a virtual tie for first in the NL Central.

Kyle Schwarber also connected as the Cubs won for the eighth time in nine games since the All-Star break. The World Series champions improved to 51-46, just a few percentage points ahead of Milwaukee after the Brewers (53-48) lost 6-3 at Philadelphia.

Quintana (6-8) struck out seven in six innings in his first home start since he was acquired in a blockbuster trade with the White Sox on July 13. He pitched seven sparkling innings in an 8-0 victory at Baltimore in his Cubs debut last Sunday.

Coming off his first career shutout, Michael Wacha (7-4) was charged with five runs and six hits in six innings in his first loss since May 30.

Wade Davis finished for his 20th save in 20 chances.

Yankees 6, Mariners 4

In Seattle, New York won a series for the first time in six weeks when Aroldis Chapman struck out Ben Gamel with a runner on to preserve the Yankees' third win in four games against Seattle this weekend. The Yankees had been 0-8-2 in series since sweeping Baltimore on June 9-11.

After Seattle overcame a 3-0 deficit with a four-run fourth inning against Caleb Smith, Brett Gardner hit a tying, bases-loaded single in the sixth and Clint Frazier followed with a two-run double off former Yankee James Pazo (2-3).

Didi Gregorius had his first career multihomer game with solo shots, and Gardner opened the game with his 17th home run.

A converted starter pitching on consecutive days for the first time in big league career, Chad Green (1-0) struck out three in 2 1/3 perfect innings. Chapman had another shaky



finish for his 11th save.

Rangers 6, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Rougned Odor homered twice, including back-to-back drives with Carlos Gomez in the eighth inning, and Texas completed a three-game sweep.

Odor's two-run drive off Brad Boxberger (2-2) tied the score, and Gomez put the Rangers ahead 6-5 two pitches later.

Joey Gallo also homered for the Rangers, who had not swept a series of three or more games at Tampa Bay since July 1999. Adrian Beltre tripled and singled, moving within 11 of 3,000 hits.

Matt Bush (3-4) pitched a scoreless seventh, and Jose Leclerc got his second save despite two walks in the ninth.

Indians 8, Blue Jays 1

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber (8-3) struck out a season-high 14 in 7 2/3 innings, and Cleveland finished a three-game sweep. Kluber allowed five hits, including Kevin Pillar's home run, and reached double figures in strikeouts for the ninth time in 16 starts.

Michael Brantley hit a two-run homer in the sixth and had three RBIs. Brandon Guyer's three-run double was the key hit in the first, when Cleveland took a 4-0 lead against J.A. Happ (3-7).

Athletics 3, Mets 2

In New York, rookie Matt Chapman quickly atoned got getting picked off at third base by hitting a tiebreaking home

run in the seventh Rafael Montero (1-7).

Rookie Daniel Gossett (2-5) gave up two runs and five hits in six innings, and Santiago Casilla worked the ninth for his 16th save, ending New York's four-game winning streak.

Reds 6, Marlins 3

In Cincinnati, Scooter Gennett, Eugenio Suarez and Tucker Barnhart homered, and Billy Hamilton had three hits and stole a pair of bases to increase his major league-leading total to 43.

Cincinnati finished a 2-8 homestand in which they allowed 23 homers and 72 runs. Rookie right-hander Sal Romano (2-2) made his fourth and longest big league start, allowing one run and three hits over six innings.

Raisel Iglesias gave up one hit over two innings for his first save since July 9, his 17th this year.

Tom Koehler (1-5) gave up six runs — five earned — and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Orioles 9, Astros 7

In Baltimore, Zach Britton pitched a hitless ninth to set an American League record by converting his 55th consecutive save opportunity.

Britton broke the AL mark held by Tom Gordon, who notched 54 straight saves with Boston from 1998-99. Britton started his run on Oct. 1, 2015, added 47 in a row last season and is 6 for 6 this year. The major league record of 84 is held by Eric Gagne of the Dodgers from 2002-04.

Baltimore broke a tie with two runs in the eighth against Luke Gregerson (2-3), using a sacrifice fly by Manny Machado and an RBI single by Jonathan Schoop.

Britton made the lead stand up, using 16 pitches to retire the AL West leaders. Mychal Givens (7-0) worked the eighth for the Orioles.

Phillies 6, Brewers 3

In Philadelphia, Nick Williams hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the fourth off Junior Guerra (1-4).

Jerad Eickhoff (2-7) allowed three hits in six innings and Howie Kendrick had two hits and two RBIs. Luis Garcia pitched a perfect ninth for his first save this season. The Phillies have won consecutive series for the first time since late April.

Tigers 9, Twins 6

In Minneapolis, Jose Iglesias had three hits, including a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh off Trevor Hildenberger (1-1) in a 4-hour, 19-minute game — the longest nine-inning game in Twins history.

Ian Kinsler, James McCann and Alex Presley also had three hits apiece for the Tigers, who took two of three from the Twins.

Matthew Boyd (4-5) won his second straight start since he was recalled from the minors, striking out a career-high eight in six-plus innings.

Royals 5, White Sox 4

In Kansas City, Missouri,

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw, center, talks with manager Dave Roberts, right, and trainer Nathan Lucero during the second inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in Los Angeles, Sunday, July 23, 2017.

Brandon Moss hit a game-ending double off Tyler Clippard, extending Chicago's longest losing streak since 2013 to nine games.

Whit Merrifield, Jorge Bonifacio and Eric Hosmer hit consecutive home runs off Derek Holland in the fourth inning for a 3-0 lead, and Merrifield hit another solo shot in the eighth off Dan Jennings to tie the score at 4.

Mike Moustakas singled off Gregory Infante (0-1) leading off the ninth and pinch-runner Lorenzo Cain advanced on a wild pitch and scored.

Kelvin Herrera (3-2) struck out two in a perfect ninth, extending the scoreless streak by the Royals bullpen to 18 innings over five games.

Rockies 13, Pirates 3

In Denver, Kyle Freeland (10-7) allowed two runs over six innings in his first start since his no-hit bid against the Chicago White Sox on July 9 was broken up by Melky Cabrera's one-out single in the ninth. between the starts, Freeland threw three hitless innings against the Mets on July 15 in his first career relief appearance.

Trevor Story, pinch-hitter Pat Valaika and Mark Reynolds hit two-run homers during a seven-run sixth.

Ivan Nova (10-7) allowed a season-high seven runs and nine hits in five-plus innings.

Angels 3, Red Sox 2

In Anaheim, California, Luis Valbuena hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the seventh off Rick Porcello (4-13), and Mike Trout and Andrelton Simmons also homered.

Parker Bridwell (4-1) gave up two runs on five hits in seven innings. Bud Norris earned his 15th save when Xander Bogaerts hit into a game-ending double play.

Padres 5, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Wil Myers homered for the third straight game against San Francisco, and Jabari Blash hit a go-ahead two-run double in the decisive fourth to back Dinelson Lamet (4-4).

San Diego hit three straight doubles in the fourth and four consecutive hits in all against lefty Ty Blach (6-6). Brad Hand, the Padres' third reliever, pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save.

MOC gets NMSA Team of the Month award



Marianas Outrigger Club paddlers head back to shore after completing the 500m race of last month's Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation Sprint Season held at Kilili Beach.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH Marianas Outrigger Club's men's team was recognized for its outstanding showing in the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation Sprint Season.

Northern Marianas Sports Association, during its meeting early this month at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, named MOC the Team of the Month after ruling all two events in the paddling group's competition. Maverick Itibus, Thomas Deleon Guerrero, Rich Salas,

Billy Grow, Angel San Nicolas, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, Jose Quan, and Bobby Cruz raced for MOC in last month's contest.

In the 500m event, MOC submitted 2:18.72 to finish way ahead of Saipan Paddling Club and Napu Outrigger Canoe Club, which logged 2:28.42 and 2:26.87, respectively. MOC got 25 points for its victory in last month's tournament and collected 95 points to rule the sprint event of the season. Three initial races were held this season with MOC winning two of them and placing second in the other one.

In the 2,500m event, MOC broke the 14-minute barrier as

it capped the race in 13:54.83. The winning club also took 25 points for prevailing in final race and wrapped up the season with 100 points after sweeping the first three events.

Meanwhile, NMSA president Michael White is again reminding teams that committed to send athletes to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu to submit a progress report on their respective preparations for the competition. Golf, athletics, and recently 3x3 basketball have confirmed their participation to the mini Games, which will run from Dec. 4 to 15.

The CNMI Federation of Golf Associations has selected players Harry Nakamura,

Franco Santos, and Dong Young Lee and coach Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho to represent the Commonwealth in the Mini Games, while Northern Marianas Athletics and Mariana Islands Basketball Federation have yet announce the members of their teams. NMA, during the earlier NMSA meetings, said it will have two female and two male athletes plus a coach, while MIBF is allowed to have four players and a coach in the 3x3, which was a recent addition to the calendar of events for the Mini Games. NMSA has until October to submit the names of athletes and officials it will bring to Vanuatu.

CAROL

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points and all 12 of her second serve. In the second set, Lim put up a good fight against the Commonwealth player, however Lee showed poise in the homestretch to take the 6-4 triumph. Again, Lee relied on her strong service game to foil the Singaporean's bid to force the Singles 1 event to a third set.

Then less than two hours after her sweep against Lim

and following Abigail Tere-Apisah's victory over Y-Kit Nicole Tan, 6-7 (7), 6-0, 6-0, Lee returned to the court to team up with New Caledonia's Mayka Zima. Lee picked up where she left off after partnering with Zima in easing past Angela Shan Min Lim and Charmaine Seah in the first set, 6-1. The Pacific Oceania pair got the win in the opening set after only 22 minutes, but failed to keep its momentum in the second, allowing the Singa-

porean duo to escape with a 7-5 win and force the deciding third set.

Seah and Angela Lim lived for another day as they got more points in their second serve, 23-9. However, there's no denying Pacific Oceania from sweeping its last game in the tournament, as Lee and Zima came out smoking in the final set, shutting down their foes after only 27 minutes.

With the win against Singapore, Lee and company were ranked No. 5 (tied with

New Zealand) out of the 12 countries that participated in the July 17 to 21 competition. Hong Kong, which handed Pacific Oceania the lone loss in the tournament, defeated Uzbekistan in the finals, 2-1, and is promoted to the elite Group I, joining Japan, South Korea, China, Thailand, and India. Pacific Oceania will remain in Group II with Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

AGE

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life and is also an avid scuba diver.

"I have been active my whole life, but it took me two years of training in order to achieve my goals. I only have 10 days to prepare for this competition after Star (Gor-

don) convinced me to join," said Yoo.

She added that competing in a bodybuilding event offers more than just flaunting your physique. "It helps boost your confidence, gives you self-esteem, and you'll overcome your shyness."

Yoo said that she enjoyed her first competition and is al-

ready looking forward for the next event. "It was awkward for me at first, but the support shown by the audience helped me relax on the stage."

"I would definitely continue working out and join this kind of events, to inspire others to do what we do. I have the chance to become an inspiration to other peo-

ple, so I would continue doing this."

Her active lifestyle has also influenced her daughter, So Young Blalock, to also start working out. "I now join her at the gym and we also jog or walk together. She has influenced me and I enjoy spending my time with her," said Blalock.

VILLACRUSIS

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competition.

In other results in the opening day of the swimming races, the CNMI's Victoria Chentsova completed the 400m event in 4:47.15, faster than the 4:50.43 she registered in the XI Oceania Championships in Fiji last year and three seconds behind the Commonwealth

record. Incidentally, the 19-year-old swimmer holds the CNMI national record in the 400m, posting 4:44.15 during the 2015 World Championships in Kazan.

Back in Hungary, Katie Ledecy of the U.S. logged a new world championships record after clocking in at 3:59.06 in the qualifying Heat 4 last Sunday. The American shattered the world championships mark

(3:59.13) which she made in Kazan. Ledecy went on to reset the championships record and win the gold medal in the 400m freestyle event after checking in at 3:58.34 in the finals.

Meanwhile, Jinju Thompson will be on Heat 1, Lane 3 when she debuts in the World Championships. She will race in the 200m freestyle against Tanzania's Sonia Tomiotto, Albania's Diana Basho, and

Dominican Republic's Arianna Sanna.

The 200m freestyle swim has six qualifying heats and 54 participants, including world and championships record-holder Federica Pellegrini of Italy and Ledecy. The Italian is on Heat 5, while the American is entered on Heat 6. The qualifying heats are scheduled to start at 9:49am Tuesday (around 6pm Saipan time).

SBL prepares for 2 leagues

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League director Tony Rogolifoi is inviting representatives of interested teams to attend an organizational meeting for the two leagues with the opening dates next month yet to be determined.

The meeting for the SBL's Under-25 league is set tomorrow at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while it will be the Masters division's turn the following day, Thursday, at the same time and venue.

Rogolifoi said that, this early, he is encouraging players that would form a team to start looking for their possible sponsors that would help them pay the registration fee. Teams must first settle all required league fees before the opening of the season.

He is also encouraging all squads that would participate

in both leagues to have their complete uniforms ready before the start of the games.

Rogolifoi said 17 years old is the beginning age for those who are eligible to play in the U25 league. "We would allow a 16 year old to play if he shows that he could compete against the older players."

The U25 is a league that gives former Big League players under the Little League program the opportunity to continue playing the sport and at the same time further honing their skills.

Entry fees, uniforms, ground rules, equipment, and other related matters would be discussed in the meeting. Waiver forms will also be distributed in both meetings. The Masters Baseball League is also set to open in August.

For more information, contact league director Rogolifoi or secretary Marlena Castro at 234-6672.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	55	45	.550	—
New York	51	46	.526	2½
Tampa Bay	51	48	.515	3½
Baltimore	47	51	.480	7
Toronto	44	54	.449	10

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	51	45	.531	—
Kansas City	50	47	.515	1½
Minnesota	49	48	.505	2½
Detroit	45	52	.464	6½
Chicago	38	57	.400	12½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	65	33	.663	—
Seattle	49	51	.490	17
Los Angeles	49	51	.490	17
Texas	48	50	.490	17
Oakland	44	54	.449	21

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	59	38	.608	—
Atlanta	47	50	.485	12
New York	45	51	.469	13½
Miami	44	52	.458	14½
Philadelphia	34	62	.354	24½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	51	46	.526	—
Milwaukee	53	48	.525	—
Pittsburgh	49	50	.495	3
St. Louis	47	51	.480	4½
Cincinnati	41	57	.418	10½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	68	31	.687	—
Colorado	58	42	.580	10½
Arizona	56	42	.571	11½
San Diego	43	55	.439	24½
San Francisco	38	62	.380	30½

BRITISH OPEN SCORES

SOUTHPORT, England (AP)—Scores on Saturday at the British Open at 7,156-yard, par-70 Royal Birkdale Golf Club:

FINAL ROUND

Jordan Spieth (600), \$1,845,000	65-69-65-69—268
Matt Kuchar (330), \$1,067,000	65-71-66-69—271
Hao Tong Li, \$684,000	69-73-69-63—274
Rafa Cabrera Bello (135), \$480,000	67-73-67-68—275
Rory McIlroy (135), \$480,000	71-68-69-67—275
Branden Grace (95), \$281,000	70-74-62-70—276
Brooks Koepka (95), \$281,000	65-72-68-71—276
Marc Leishman (95), \$281,000	69-76-66-65—276
Alex Noren, \$281,000	68-72-69-67—276
Matthew Southgate, \$281,000	72-72-67-65—276
Paul Casey (72), \$175,333	66-77-67-67—277
Chan Kim, \$175,333	72-68-67-70—277
Henrik Stenson (72), \$175,333	69-73-65-70—277
Austin Connolly, \$128,917	67-72-66-73—278
Jason Dufner (58), \$128,917	73-71-66-68—278
Zach Johnson (58), \$128,917	75-66-71-66—278
Hideki Matsuyama (58), \$128,917	68-72-66-72—278
Ian Poulter (58), \$128,917	67-70-71-70—278
Chris Wood, \$128,917	71-72-68-67—278
Charley Hoffman (50), \$104,500	67-73-72-67—279
Xander Schauffele (50), \$104,500	69-75-70-65—279
Richard Bland, \$88,000	67-72-70-71—280
Rickie Fowler (42), \$88,000	71-71-67-71—280
Jamie Lovemark (42), \$88,000	71-69-70-70—280
Richie Ramsay, \$88,000	68-70-70-72—280
Adam Scott (42), \$88,000	69-74-70-67—280
Aaron Baddeley (29), \$64,500	69-76-72-64—281
Daniel Berger (29), \$64,500	68-76-70-67—281
Jason Day (29), \$64,500	69-76-65-71—281
David Drysdale, \$64,500	72-73-66-70—281
Tony Finau (29), \$64,500	70-73-67-71—281
Tommy Fleetwood, \$64,500	76-69-66-70—281
Thongchai Jaidee, \$64,500	70-73-68-70—281
Andrew Johnston (29), \$64,500	69-74-67-71—281
Bubba Watson (29), \$64,500	68-72-71-70—281
Lee Westwood, \$64,500	71-74-69-67—281

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017 NMI Bodybuilding & Physique Championships

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Sean Japor flexes his muscles for the judges in last Saturday's NMI Bodybuilding & Physique Championships at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.



Dee Clayton flaunts her winning form in the Masters Ladies Bikini.



Joselyn Itibus shows off the result of countless hours of training in the gym.



Open Men's Physique third placer Zhang Wei, center.



Veteran bodybuilder Aaron Tomokane, center, with judges Josephine Togawa, left, and Greg Borja.



Judge Greg Borja, right, congratulates Kelvin Fitial, center, while Josephine Togawa looks on.



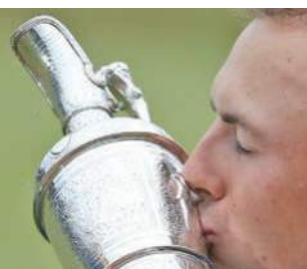
Open Men's Physique champion Enrico Valdez, center, poses with judges Josephine Togawa, left, and Greg Borja.



Star Gordon, center, is the Masters Women's Physique winner.

Jordan's
wild journey:
Spieth wins
British Open

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Dodgers
lose injured
Kershaw, beat
Braves 5-4 in 10

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28 TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Villacrusis sets PBT in Hungary

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Christian Villacrusis earned a new personal best time in the 100m breaststroke event after debuting in the 17th FINA World Championships last Sunday in Budapest, Hungary.

Villacrusis raced on Lane 3, Heat 1 of the preliminaries and completed the two-lap swim in 1:16.70.

"It was great. I got 1.16.70 for the 100 breast, so I shaved about a second in my event. I was surprised to see a lot of people watching because it was still the first day and it was only prelims. Swimming here is really fun because you can draw energy from the crowd and swim with so much adrenaline," the 17-year-old swimmer said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* last Monday morning.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Christian Villacrusis, seen here racing in a local meet early this year, joined the 100m breaststroke event in the 17th FINA World Championships last Sunday in Budapest, Hungary.

The Saipan Swim Club member's seedtime registered on the start list of the event was 1:18.57, which he then eclipsed when he joined the 69th Annual Keo Nakama

Invitational in Hawaii early this month after submitting 1:18.48. Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation turned in the seedtime to organizers before the competition

in Hawaii, while Villacrusis' PBT in the World Championships has to be made officially by SSC. Only CNMI national records are certified by NMISF. Rezne Wong still



owns the Commonwealth mark in the 100m breaststroke (1:07.29/May 30, 2012).

In the World Championships, record-holder Adam Peaty of Great Britain lived up to expectations after posting the best time in the qualifiers. He timed in at 58.21 seconds to lead 15 others to the semi-finals. The British swimmer then set a new championship record after logging 57.75 seconds in the semis and surpassing his own mark of 58.18 seconds (registered in 2015 during the World Championships in Kazan). Peaty and seven others qualified to the medal race, which was scheduled Monday evening (early Tuesday morning on Saipan) during Day 2 of the swimming

See VILLACRUSIS on
Page 26

Age, just a number for Yoo

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Ran Hee Yoo showed everyone that age doesn't matter in the sport of bodybuilding. The 64-year-old mother of two settled for second place

against Star Gordon in their head-to-head in Saturday's NMI Bodybuilding and Physique Championships.

To give you a brief back-

ground of Yoo, she was born two years after the Korean War, has two grown children—a girl and a boy—five grandkids, and four step great

grandkids.

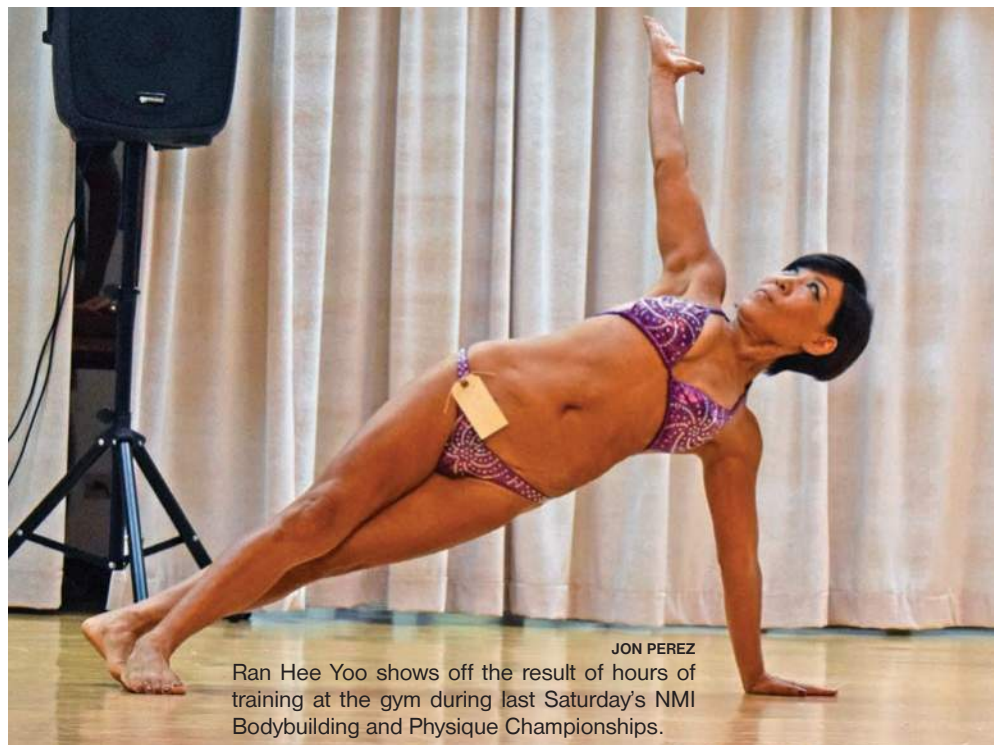
This is her first time to stand in front of a panel of judges and an audience to show off her physique wearing a two-piece bikini. She and Gordon competed in the Masters Women's Physique category.

She said that she decided to join to inspire women younger than her or those who are in her age group to have a healthy lifestyle and challenge them to show the result of their hard work and discipline.

"Everybody can work out and train in the gym. It is for people of all ages who are still capable of working out. It does not matter how old you are. Look at me, I could still do it despite me being 64 years old," said Yoo.

The Yongin City, South Korea native has had an active lifestyle even before getting hooked to weight training. She has played golf for most of her

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JON PEREZ

Ran Hee Yoo shows off the result of hours of training at the gym during last Saturday's NMI Bodybuilding and Physique Championships.

Carol steps up in Fed Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI's Carol Lee played in her first singles

match in the 2017 Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II and made the most out of this opportunity to lift Pacific Oceania to a 3-0 victory over Singapore last weekend in Tajikistan.

Pacific Oceania fielded Lee in the Singles 1 event

opposite Lynelle En Tong Lim, as Samoa's Steffi Caruthers had to leave the Dushanbe Central Stadium to go to the embassy and fix her visa problems. The 15-year-old went on to pay back the trust captain Patrice Cotti of Tahiti gave her by sweeping Lim.

Lee had an emphatic 6-0 victory in the opening set, which she wrapped up in just 25 minutes after winning 11 of her 16 first serve

See CAROL on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Carol Lee, second left, joins captain Patrice Cotti of Tahiti and her teammates for a group photo before playing against Hong Kong in the 2017 Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II last week in Tajikistan.